



CITY OF TOCCOA
CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES • SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

Regular Meeting

City Commission/Court Room

5:00 PM

92 North Alexander, Toccoa, GA 30577

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Carter called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Reverend Paul Garrison.

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	Absent	
Beth Rider	City Clerk	Present	

Attorney Jay Doss was present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

I. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

- A. Request for Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2025 Work Session
- B. Request for Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2025 Commission Meeting

REPORTS

Vice-Mayor Hellenga reported on Friday night he attended the Recovery Event at the Rec Center along with the Police Chief and City Manager.

Vice-Mayor Hellenga gave an update on the Humane Shelter. In August there were 156 intakes, 82 adoptions, 11 return to owner, 45 transfers, 19 euthanized and 6 died at the shelter. The live release rate was 85%.

Saturday there was a Vaccine Clinic and 81 animals were vaccinated for rabies, for the free adoption event there were 11 adoptions.

Commissioner Matheson reported he attended the Georgia Mountains Regional Staff Retreat in Downtown, it was well attended and they enjoyed the venue, they learned a lot and they enjoyed seeing downtown.

Commissioner Matheson attended the September DDA Meeting.

Commissioner Matheson reported the Finally Friday was held in Downtown on Friday, it was well received. They had over 225 register for free gifts given by local merchants, it was a great success.

Commissioner Matheson thanked Tim Mullen, Manager of the Ritz for all he has done to improve the Ritz Theatre.

City Manager Fredda Wheeler stated we are extremely proud of our Toccoa Police Department. The City of Toccoa is a much better place to live, work and play because of the Toccoa Police Department under the direction of Bruce Carlisle. Ms. Wheeler asked Police Chief Carlisle to share some things happening in the Police Department.

Chief Bruce Carlisle stated it is an honor to stand before you; there are a lot of great resources in this City. Chief Carlisle will celebrate 48 years in Public Service on November 1st; of all the organizations he has been affiliated with the number one resource are your people. Chief Carlisle recognized his Investigation Staff for an investigation involving a suspect that had been on the run for a while and they were able to take the gentleman into custody. Chief Carlisle also stated we are working on our State Certification and one of the Program Rules is you have to have a Certification Manager and be in the program for three years. Chief Carlisle appealed the three year rule to the Executive Director and Executive Board of the Chiefs Association based on what Ms. Walton has done since she has been working on this for nine months. Tomorrow she leaves for dress rehearsal and they will waive the three year requirement and Ms. Walton will become an Assessor.

City Manager Wheeler asked for Utilities Director Harry Scott to give an update on the additional testing for EPD. Mr. Scott gave an update and stated our numbers are looking really good.

Mayor Terry Carter reported to the Commission about the City getting into compliance with Grant opportunities with DNR, LWCF is the agency we had gotten previous grants for Henderson Falls Projects. Mayor Carter stated currently we are ineligible because of past usage at Alewine Park that did not fall into recreation; we talked about learning the steps to get into compliance. Mayor Carter stated this morning, He, the City Manager and Finance Director met with two people to walk us through the process to get back into compliance. The first step is to get a survey of the property that we will need to swap out on paper. The property would be

appraised and we will need to identify other property for recreation or greenspace, some type of property the City could acquire for the same dollar value, it does not have to be the same acreage or size. They will help us through the process to swap it out with the agency to be eligible to apply for grants. Mayor Carter stated the next opportunity to apply for the DNR Grant will be in the fall of 26', we are hoping to have something in the works before then and have completed. Mayor Carter stated they made a comment as long as we are in the process of getting into compliance and swapping the property we would still be eligible for the grant and get awarded the grant.

II. OLD BUSINESS

III. NEW BUSINESS

C. Consideration of Invoice from Southern Geotechnical Consultants

A motion was made by Commissioner Fry, seconded by Commissioner Matheson to approve the invoice from Southern Geotechnical Consultants with the understanding we get an extension. Motion carried 3-2, Vice-Mayor Hellenga and Commissioner Jamieson opposed.

RESULT:	APPROVED [3 TO 2]
MOVER:	Gail Fry, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Ron Matheson, Commissioner
AYES:	Carter, Fry, Matheson
NAYS:	Hellenga, Jamieson

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Ms. Sylvia Hill, 122 Grove Street, Toccoa.

Ms. Hill stated she is a retired State worker in Health Care and Disability. She had a concern about healthcare and resources provided for those with Medicare and Medicaid and wanted to know if there is a place that provides not only food but education concerning their illnesses.

Mayor Carter stated Julie Paysen with the Chamber of Commerce could help her get connected with organizations. Family Connections is one Organization that is an umbrella of different resources within the Community.

Ms. Paysen stated there is a collaborative of different services available that meets once a month. AVITA is local and provide tremendous services to the community.

V. ADJOURN



M. Carter

Mayor
Beth Kider

City Clerk