

**CITY OF TOCCOA**  
**CITY COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES • JULY 14, 2025**

**Regular Meeting**

**City Commission/Court Room**  
 92 North Alexander, Toccoa, GA 30577

**5:00 PM**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Carter called the regular meeting to order at 5:00 pm

**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 Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Hellenga to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**I. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

- A. Request for Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2025 Work Session
- B. Request for Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2025 Commission Meeting

**REPORTS**

Vice-Mayor Hellenga reported on July 21st, he gave the Welcome for the Juneteenth Celebration in the Greenspace, it was fairly well attended and a lot of vendors. It was a good event.

Vice-Mayor Hellenga stated we have had several successful Ida Cox events and Saturday night there were not many empty seats in the Ritz.

Vice-Mayor Hellenga asked everyone to remember the Archie Sharretts family.

Commissioner Fry gave a special thanks to Public Works, Utilities, the Police Officers, and Fire Department for working under a strong heat advisory. Commissioner Fry thanked City Manager, Utilities Director, Public Works Director, Chief of Police and Fire Chief for making it as safe as possible for the employees to work in these conditions.

Commissioner Matheson reported he attended the Georgia Mountain Regional Commission meeting in Clayton, Georgia on June 26th and on Friday, last week he met with the Downtown Development Authority.

City Manager Wheeler stated the City of Toccoa is the recipient of a Georgia Council of the Arts FY26 Project Grant for \$5,000. The \$5,000 is being used to utilize and continue the Night at the Ritz Series, this will be Series 9.

Ms. Wheeler asked Police Chief Bruce Carlisle to come and give a special presentation.

Police Chief Carlisle gave Commendations to Officer Jake Palmer and John Cleveland. Chief Carlisle stated Officer Palmer responded to a roll over motor vehicle collision on June 25, 2025 and immediately began to break the glass on the door to gain entry to the vehicle. Once gaining entry Officer Palmer assessed the condition of the driver and determined she was not breathing and no pulse. Chief Carlisle stated with the assistance of a 1<sup>st</sup> responder on scene, Officer Palmer was able to disengage the seat belt and performed a head tilt chin lift maneuver at which time the driver began to breathe. Chief Carlisle stated your quick action during this incident saved the life of one of our fine citizens and commended Officer Palmer and offered him the highest praise and appreciation. Chief Carlisle stated your efforts are in keeping with the high standards of the Toccoa Police Department and exemplify the high standards of our profession. Chief Carlisle presented Officer Palmer the Toccoa Police Department Life Saving Commendation and a medal to be worn for all his great accomplishments.

Chief Carlisle commended John Cleveland, EMS for his for his courageous actions on June 25, 2025 when he responded to a roll over motor vehicle collision where he assisted Police Officer Jake Palmer lifting the driver of the vehicle enough to disengage the seatbelt that was endangering the driver. Chief Carlisle stated his swift response and decisive actions during this incident saved a life to one of our valued citizens. Chief Carlisle stated he expressed his highest praise and appreciation for his efforts on that day, on behalf of the City of Toccoa and presented Mr. Cleveland the City of Toccoa Police Department Life Saving Commendation and a medal signifying his accomplishment.

Ms. Dorothy Cook read a letter thanking and recognizing Officer Palmer and Mr. Cleveland for

saving her life on June 25, 2025.

## II. OLD BUSINESS

### III. NEW BUSINESS

- C. Report from the Stephens County Development Authority

The Stephens County Development Authority Report was given by Director Brittany Ivey.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PRESENTATION</b>
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- D. Consideration of Alcohol Beverage License for Ping's Restaurant

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Hellenga, seconded by Commissioner Fry to approve the Alcohol License for Ping's Grill. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- E. Consideration of Appointments to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board

A motion was made by Commissioner Matheson, seconded by Commissioner Jamieson to approve re-appointments to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board for Susan Turner and Owen Collins to serve a 3 year term ending June 30, 2028. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- F. Consideration of Georgia Municipal Employee Defined Benefit Retirement Plan for Alternative Normal Retirement for Public Safety

A motion was made by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Commissioner Fry to approve the Georgia Municipal Employee Defined Benefit Retirement Plan for Alternative Normal Retirement for Public Safety. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- G. Consideration of Davidson Creek Generator Project

A motion was made by Commissioner Jamieson, seconded by Vice-Mayor Hellenga to approve the Davidson Creek Reservoir Pump Station Generator Project. Motion carried unanimously.

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

H. Monthly Financial Report

Finance Director Becky Bohannon gave the FY2025 Year in Review.

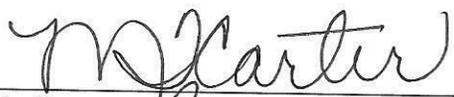
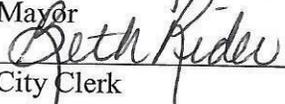
**RESULT:** PRESENTATION

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

**V. ADJOURN**

Mayor Carter adjourned the regular meeting at 5:42 p.m.

  
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Mayor  
  
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City Clerk