

City of Dunwoody
September 30, 2026
City Council Special Called Meeting Minutes

The City Council of the City of Dunwoody held a Meeting on September 30, 2026 at 8:30 AM. The meeting was held Dunwoody Nature, North Woods Pavilion, 5343 Roberts Drive, Dunwoody, Georgia 30338. Present for the meeting were the following:

Voting Members: Lynn Deutsch, Mayor
Stacey Harris, Council Member
John Heneghan, Council Member
Catherine Lautenbacher, Council Member
Rob Price, Council Member
Joe Seconder, Council Member

Also Present: Eric Linton, City Manager
Jay Vinicki, Assistant City Manager
Ken Bernard, City Attorney
Mike Carlson, Chief of Police
Sharon Lowery, City Clerk
Jessica Holmes, Deputy City Clerk
Shayla Alexis, Executive Assistant
Nicole Stojka, Human Resources Director
Richard Platto, Finance Director
Jennifer Boettcher, Communications Director
Ginger LePage, Technology Director
Jordan White, Technology Manager
Richard McLeod, Community Development Director
Rachel Waldron, Parks and Recreation Director
Michael Smith, Public Works Director
Michael Starling, Economic Development Director

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Deutsch called the meeting to order. All members were present except Council Member Lambert.

INTRODUCTION / GROUND RULES

Mayor Deutsch provided an introduction to the retreat. She talked about the property tax freeze, tax reform, and how Dunwoody compares to our peer cities. She said it's important to understand the how, what, and where of the budget.

City Manager Eric Linton said they met with all departments on their budgets and carefully looked at revenue and expenses. He said as part of the retreat, we will look at what kind of city we want to be.

Assistant City Manager Jay Vinicki thanked Richard Platto and Delisha Robinson and staff for their work on the proposed budget. He said each department's budgets will be looked at today and how their operations compare with other cities. He then provided the ground rules for the meeting.

FY2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

1. Presentation

Richard Platto presented an overview of the proposed FY27 budget, focusing on the General Fund. The revenue growth is 0.9% from the 2026 budget, driven mostly by the tax digest. He said we are seeing an 8% increase in costs and a 1-2% increase in revenue. The headcount in the proposed budget is not changing, remaining at 142.5 city employees.

Mr. Platto said we began 2026 with \$31.4M in savings. A budget amendment was approved to use fund balance in FY2026 to do a couple of initiatives; \$5M to build out Homecoming Park, \$1.5M for pedestrian safety – public works projects, \$800,000 for police vehicles, ballistic windows. A \$662,000 adjustment was made during the year for the MRI renovation, a small true up on the DNC Wildcat lab and \$200,00 use of general funds. The total use of fund balance in 2026 is \$8.2M that is budgeted. Mr. Platto estimated that we will finish the year with 7.4 months of unassigned fund balance. At the end of 2026 we estimate having \$10.6M above the 4-month reserve of \$12.5M. He said they are forecasting using \$2.8 million of fund balance in the 2027 budget, leaving 6 months unassigned fund balance at the end of 2027.

Mr. Platto gave an overview of the revenue sources and budgeted expenditures.

2. Initial Questions

Mr. Platto answered questions of Council throughout his presentation.

CITY COMPARISONS

3. Cities Overview

Jay Vinicki presented a city comparison overview of Dunwoody, Alpharetta, Brookhaven, Chamblee, Roswell, Sandy Springs, and Smyrna. He compared populations, property and sales tax rates, General Fund budgets, Property, LOST, (T)SPLOST, debt, and positions.

4. Police: - \$16,234,340

Chief Mike Carlson gave a brief overview of the Police Department 2027 proposed budget and operations and a comparison with other peer cities. Chief Carlson answered questions from Council.

5. Parks / Facilities: - \$5,056,120

Rachel Waldron gave a brief overview of the proposed 2027 budget for Parks and Recreation and operations and a comparison with other peer cities. Ms. Waldron answered questions from Council.

6. Public Works: - \$3,000,000 (General Fund) - \$3,046, 520 (Stormwater)

Michael Smith presented an overview of the Public Works 2027 proposed budget and operations and a comparison with other peer cities. Mr. Smith answered questions from Council.

7. Other Departments:

Technology Department: - \$3,892,900

Ginger LePage provided an overview of the Technology Department FY27 proposed budget and operations and a comparison with other peer cities. Ms. LePage answered questions from Council

Council Member Price moved to recess for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Council Member Heneghan seconded.

Passed: For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 1 (Lambert)

Council Member Price moved to resume the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Council Member Heneghan seconded.

Passed: For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 1 (Lambert)

Community Development: - \$2,547,510

Richard McLeod gave an overview of the proposed FY27 Community Development budget and operations and a comparison with other peer cities. He noted that he budgeted for a City Fire Marshal. Mr. McLeod answered questions from Council.

Finance Department: - \$2,245,000

Richard Platto presented the proposed FY27 budget for the Finance Department and operations and a comparison with other peer cities. Mr. Platto answered questions from Council.

City Manager: - \$1.18M

Jay Vinicki presented the proposed FY27 budget for the City Manager's Office and a comparison of peer cities. Mr. Vinicki answered questions from Council.

Municipal Court: - \$842,290

Norlaundra Huntington presented the proposed FY27 budget for the Municipal Court and a comparison to peer cities. Ms. Huntington answered questions from Council.

Human Resources: - \$639,480

Nicole Stojka presented the proposed FY27 budget for the Human Resources Department and a comparison to peer cities. Ms. Stojka answered questions from Council.

City Clerk: - \$617, 955

City Clerk Sharon Lowery presented the proposed FY27 budget for the City Clerk's office and a comparison to peer cities. Ms. Lowery answered questions from Council.

Economic Development: - \$587,580

Michael Starling presented the proposed FY27 budget for Economic Development and a comparison to peer cities. Mr. Starling answered questions from Council.

Communications Department: - \$582,845

Jennifer Boettcher presented the proposed FY27 budget for Communications and a comparison to peer cities. Ms. Boettcher answered questions from Council.

Capital Budget:

Michael Smith presented a high-level view of capital projects that are funded to be completed within the next five years, 2027-2031. He showed all active projects and what phase they are in. Mr. Smith reviewed non-active projects in each of the Capital accounts and the funding remaining for those projects. He recommended reserving those funds as contingency. He recommended reserving the balance in SPOST-1 for the Peeler Road path construction and allocating the SPLOST-II to traffic signal vehicle direction upgrades, \$100,000 to transportation safety – small projects, and \$203,000 to the Happy Hollow sidewalk.

Eric Linton reminded that SPLOST funds are restricted. He said \$5,000,000 was allocated for Homecoming Park, but he thinks it will be closer to \$6,500,000. In addition, the Public Safety Storage Building is partially funded in the Capital Budget for \$600,000. The estimated cost is \$1,500,000. He said we could use \$1,000,000 in SPLOST funds but would still need an additional \$500,000.

Richard Platto reminded that there is \$1,800,000 available in the budget from the proceeds of the sale of the Emory property.

The questions Council wrote on their index cards were answered throughout the presentations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURN

Council Member Harris moved to adjourn. Council Member Lautenbacher seconded.

Passed: For: 6; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Absent: 1 (Lambert)
6-0