CITY COUNCIL:
MAYOR ZINDA MCDANIEL
MAYOR PRO TEM LULA SMART
COUNCIL MEMBER KECHIA HARRISON
COUNCIL MEMBER ROBBY CHRISTIAN
COUNCIL MEMBER CHRISTOPHER COLE

CITY OFFICIALS:
CITY MANAGER JAMES LAWRENCE
CITY CLERK: VACANT
ATTORNEY KARLA WALKER
CHIEF OF POLICE LAWRENCE MCGEE
FIRE CHIEF ANTHONY GUARINO

QUITMAN CITY COUNCIL
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026
6:30 PM

Opening Ceremonies

A. **Call To Order**
Meeting was called to order by Mayor Zinda McDaniel at 6:30pm
Officials in attendance: Mayor Zinda McDaniel, Councilwoman Kechia Harrison, Councilman Robby Christian, Councilwoman Lula Smart, Councilman Christopher Cole, City Manager James Lawrence, City Attorney Karla Walker

B. **Invocation**
Councilman Robby Christian provided Invocation

C. **Pledge of Allegiance**
Mayor Zinda McDaniel led Pledge of Allegiance

D. **Adoption of Agenda**
Upon motion by Councilwoman Lula Smart and seconded by Councilman Christopher Cole to adopt agenda. Voting yes: Smart, Cole, Harrison, Christian

E. Approval of meeting minutes
Minute for the following meetings were presented for approval: Regular Council Meeting February 3rd, 2026, Council Work Session February 24th, 2026. Upon motion by Lula Smart and seconded by Robby Christian, the minutes were approved. Voting yes: Smart, Christian, Harrison, Cole.

Citizens to be Heard

A citizen from 401 S. Laurel Street raised concerns regarding Walker Street insurance funds and plans for the area. Resident thanked police officers for responding to accident on property, thanked city for cleaning out the ditch and replacing a sign. Inquired about the salary of the previous city manager. Attorney Karla Walker stated the matter was pending and stated the previous city manager was no longer on payroll. The resident thanked city for working with the county on various initiatives.

A citizen on 404 Walker Street inquired about work taking place on W. Battle Street and Forsyth St. City manager Lawrence explained the progress and provided an estimated time of completion.

A citizen from 212 N. Walker St. addressed the council regarding historic preservation of the city and

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willingness to work with the city council with various historic preservation projects. Also commended the city for measures taken to address storm drainage issues in the neighborhood.

Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported the upcoming Georgia Cities Week to take place April 20th through April 26th, 2026. A committee comprised of city employees will be working to finalize plans for the week.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Lawrence McGee presented a report covering February 2026, including arrest activity, traffic stops, staffing, academy progress and department initiatives. Provided suggestions on ways residents can stay safe during vacation season and suggestions regarding crime prevention including locking doors, keeping home exteriors free of dark spots. No action was taken.

Fire Chief's Report

Fire Chief Anthony Guarino presented a report outlining calls, training, ISO certification progress. Also indicated that all personnel are certified.

City Manager's Report

The City Manager presented a written report outlining operational updates concerning Water and Sewer, Gas, Public Works, Animal Control, Code Enforcement, Finance and Administration. **Executive Session**

At 6:54pm, Councilman Christopher Cole and Seconded by Councilman Robby Christian made a motion to enter executive session pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. for the purpose of discussing matters related to personnel. The Motion passed with councilmembers, Smart, Christian, Harrison and Cole voting yes. Council returned to open session at 7:14pm. Upon returning to open session, Councilmember Robby Christian made a motion to appoint Dawn Montgomery as City Clerk. The motion was seconded by Chrstopher Cole and passed with Councilmembers Harrison, Cole, Christian and Smart voting yes.

Ratification to Engage with CKH Accounting to perform staff augmentation and bank reconciliation.

Upon motion by Councilman Robby Christian and seconded by Councilwoman Kechia Harrison, Council voted to approve ratification to engage with CKH Group to perform staff augmentation and bank reconciliations for FY 2019-2025. Voting yes: Harrison, Christian, Cole and Smart

Consideration to engage with an audit firm to perform a 2019 trial balance audit and to fully audit FY 2020. With anticipated fees not to exceed $60,000

Upon motion by Councilman Christopher Cole and seconded by Councilman Robby Christian, Council approved the City Manager to engage with an independent audit firm to perform a 2019 trial balance and fully audit FY2020 with anticipated fees not to exceed $60,000. Voting yes: Smart, Christian, Harrison, and Cole.

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Consideration to amend FY 2025-2026 budget.

Electric Purchase, ECG Professional Services, Enterprise Fleet Management

Upon motion by Councilwoman Kechia Harrison and seconded by Councilman Robby Christian to approve a budget amendment to increase electric purchases to 3,826,551, increase ECG budget to $133,000 increase Enterprise fleet to $492979. Voting yes: Smart, Harrison, Cole, and Christian.

Consideration to remove damaged trees on Court Street

Upon motion by Robby Christian and seconded by Christopher Cole, Council voted to approve the removal of damaged trees on Court Street. Voting yes: Harrison, Cole, Christian and Smart.

Consideration approving repair of damaged spray field pump.

Upon motion by Christopher Cole and seconded by Kechia Harrison, Council approved City Manager to execute a purchase to repair Spray field pump in the amount of 34,570. Voting yes: Harrison, Cole, Christian and Smart

Consideration to approve waster water and lift station monitoring.

Upon motion by Councilwoman Keicha Harrison and seconded by Councilman Robby Christian, Council voted to approve City Manager to execute an agreement to restore wastewater and freshwater treatment monitoring systems. Voting yes: Harrison, Cole, Christian and Smart

Consideration to approve MOA with Brooks County Industrial Park for Agridyne zoning and permits

Upon motion by Councilman Christopher Cole and seconded by Councilman Robby Christian, Council voted to approve the MOA with Brooks County Board of Commissioners to allow Agridyne project zoning and permits to be completed by Brooks County Board of Commissioners. Voting yes: Smart, Harrison, Cole, and Christian.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Councilwoman Kechia Harrison and seconded by Councilwoman Lula Smart, Council voted to adjourn meeting at 7:25pm. Voting yes: Smart, Christian, Cole, and Harrison.

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