

City Council Meeting Summary (03/19/2026)

1. Opening & Recognition

- Meeting opened with prayer and pledge.
 - Recognition of **Interim Police Chief Sgt. Nick Garman** for completing required executive training.
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2. Presentations

Employee Health Insurance Renewal

- Proposed renewal increase:
 - **Medical:** ~6.5%
 - **Bridge policy:** ~5%
- Current plan recommended to remain (cost-effective vs. alternatives).
- Provides **\$0 net deductible** for employees.
- Approved by council.

Trash Service (All Green Services)

- Company offered services to assist or replace city trash operations.
 - Claimed ability to:
 - Reduce costs
 - Eliminate equipment/maintenance expenses
 - No action taken—discussion for future consideration.
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3. Agenda & Previous Business

- Agenda amended to add item regarding **Randy Newman Center license agreement**.
 - **February 2026 minutes approved.**
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4. Financial Report (Key Concern Area)

- **Projected deficit: ~\$200,000**
 - Major issues:
 - Overspending in administration (88% used vs. ~67% expected)
 - High consulting/legal costs
 - Uncertainty in grant reimbursements timing
 - FEMA reimbursement (~\$142K) received but not fully reflected yet.
 - Council advised to **limit spending for remainder of fiscal year.**
 - **Financial report approved with concern.**
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5. Department & Project Updates

Engineering / Infrastructure

- Water and sewer projects:
 - Water main project nearly complete
 - Sewer project nearing completion
- New **gravity sewer project:**
 - Low bid: **\$1.085 million (SEC Site Work)**
 - Approved by council
 - Expected to start June, ~5-month duration
 - Significant road disruption expected (Cone Street)

Development & Planning

- Zoning ordinance updates delayed (~3 additional months needed)
 - Moratorium on rezoning/annexation may be extended
 - Large subdivision (11 phases) in planning
 - Potential commercial developments (gas station, townhomes)
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6. Community & Operations Issues

Police Department

- Low crime reported
- Staffing challenges (only 1 applicant for open position)
- Equipment updates:
 - New radar units, tasers incoming
 - Fleet aging (vehicles over 100K miles)
- Request for **in-car computers (\$24,034)**:
 - Motion failed (no second)

Traffic & Safety

- Ongoing congestion at elementary school—no immediate solution
- Increase in off-road vehicle complaints (ATVs, side-by-sides)

Public Works / Safety

- Hazardous trees identified for removal
 - Georgia Power upgrading infrastructure (new poles/lines)
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7. Major Discussion Topics

Budget Concerns

- Emphasis on:
 - Cutting expenses
 - Reevaluating spending priorities
 - Delaying hiring

Trash Service Strategy

- Issues identified:
 - Inefficiency servicing areas far outside city
 - Delinquent accounts still receiving service

- Future actions:
 - Review pricing, service area, and policy
 - Consider expansion only in nearby مناطق (not distant areas)

Randy Newman Community Center

- Proposed agreement for county summer camp use:
 - ~\$275/month + deposit
- Concerns:
 - Fees too low vs. actual costs
 - City may be losing money
- Decision: **Tabled for further review**

Infrastructure Safety

- Concern about **low-hanging power lines at community center**
 - Estimated fix: ~\$30K
 - Consider moving utilities underground to reduce liability
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8. Other Notes

- ADA website compliance deadline:
 - City deadline: **2027**
 - Community events praised (hot dog social, school sports wins)
 - Future walking trail project approved at Fletcher Park
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9. Executive Session

- Council entered executive session for **personnel matters**.
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⚠ Key Takeaways

- **Financial strain is the biggest issue** (projected deficit).

- Major infrastructure investments continue (sewer, utilities).
- Need for **policy updates** in:
 - Trash services
 - Facility rentals
- Staffing and equipment challenges in police department.
- Several decisions **postponed pending better cost analysis.**