



**CITY OF RICHMOND HILL  
WORKSHOP OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026  
6:00 PM**

**Richmond Hill City Hall  
40 Richard Davis Drive  
Richmond Hill, Georgia 31324**

**Present from City Council:** Kristi Cox, *Mayor*; *Councilmembers:* Cindy Hatala, Van Hunter, and Steve Scholar

Mayor Cox called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Hatala gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Hunter.

**Mayor Cox opened the workshop by reading the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) nine pillars of civility to guide the discussions.**

## **FINANCE**

**Derrick Cowart, Finance Director**

The Council reviewed five capital plan purchases for future approval that are part of the approved capital plan:

- **Water System Upgrades Phase 1 (Survey):** \$118,125 for Blueberry Village, Carter Street, and the Bottoms neighborhood. Funding will be sourced from the Water and Sewer fund.
- **2026 Ford F-350 (Stormwater Operations):** \$69,517 from Ed Murdoch Ford (low quote). The heavy-duty truck was selected for its specific towing capabilities.
- **Caterpillar D3 LGP Dozer:** \$159,870 to be purchased from Yancey via Georgia State contract.
- **Mini Excavator (Stormwater Operations):** \$129,035 also sourced through state contract pricing.
- **Fire Department Vehicles:** \$125,000 total for a 2025 Chevy Silverado 1500 and a 2026 Chevy Silverado 2500, including outfitting.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

**Nathan Clark, Assistant City Manager**

- **Brisbon Road Pedestrian Bridge:** Assistant City Manager Nathan Clark presented a \$1,495,640 low bid from Astra Group. The City's 50% commitment is \$747,820. The county will lead project management with Thomas & Hutton as engineers.

- **LMIG Applications:** GDOT applications are due February 1, 2026. Councilmembers suggested resurfacing Main Street at Harris Trail, and potential work on 4th Street, 2nd Street, Camellia Street, and Oleander Street.
- **Retired Firearms Surplus:** The city will establish a formal procedure to declare firearms issued to the former Police Chief and other retired officers as surplus.

**Chris Lovell, City Manager**

- **Alcohol Distance Ordinance:** City Manager Chris Lovell recommended reducing the required distance between alcohol-selling establishments and schools or daycares from 200 yards to 100 yards to mirror state law. First reading is scheduled for February 3.

**Dawnne Greene, City Clerk**

- **CodeRed:** City Clerk Dawnne Greene reported a security breach in Code Red. Since the county has elected to proceed independently, the City is soliciting quotes for a separate EMA-approved messaging system.
- **Digital Programs:** Discussion regarding the implementation of a Civic Plus agenda and meeting program to improve efficiency and a NextRequest program to automate the high volume of open record requests.

**PLANNING AND ZONING**

**Brian Crooks, Planning and Zoning Director**

- **Code Changes:** Planning staff is preparing updates to irrigation requirements and various articles of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).
- **Stormwater Framework:** A three-part strategy focusing on maintenance, planning, and education is being developed.

**COUNCIL**

- **Mayor Pro-Tem Appointment:** Council discussed the tabled appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem. Councilmembers Hatala and Scholar expressed interest in the role. Councilmember Hunter stated that the Mayor Pro-Tem should have experience, wisdom, and a love for the City. A proposal to implement a yearly rotation among all councilmembers was also suggested.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM following a motion by Councilmember Scholar and a second by Councilmember Hunter. Motion was carried by all.