



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

**Tuesday, February 17, 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, Kevin Bowes, Van Hunter, and Steve Scholar

Mayor Cox called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilmember Hunter gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Bowes.

Interim Chief Recognition: Appreciation was expressed for Captain Potts for his service as stand-in Chief during the Interim Police Chief's two-week absence.

Platform Feedback: Remarks were made regarding the trial of a new meeting platform; the city plans to revert to the previous system due to technical preferences.

FINANCE

Request Council Approval to consider awarding the following purchases:

InterOp Mobile CAD and Standard Server including installation in the amount of \$68,405. Funds are available in the police department's technology fee fund.

- Discussion regarding the transition from the "Eagle" system to the i3 integrated package. Key benefits identified include real-time access to the 9-1-1 center, live call remarks, and ADL mapping to improve situational awareness and officer safety.

Case Management for Municipal Courts. Software will be funded with a per paid citation fee of \$4.

- Discussion of software funding options: a \$4 per-paid citation fee or a \$2,000 monthly maintenance fee. The Police Department recommends the \$4 per-citation fee, which is estimated at \$24,000 annually if paid by the city.

Fire Department Equipment in the amount of \$67,116. Funds are available in SPLOST 24-30 and the equipment is part of the approved capital plan.

- Discussion regarding the purchase of five or six new air packs to replace aging units with a 15-year lifespan.

Request approval to surplus 11 police department vehicles for auction. The police department replaced the attached vehicles in 2025.

- Discussion regarding if there is any other department that could find use from the vehicles before placing them up for auction.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Items for upcoming 3-3-2026 City Council Meeting:

Preliminary plat for Heartwood Pod 3, a portion of map & parcel 049004. Action

Presentation of a preliminary plat for approximately seven parcels. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

Zoning amendment to the Camellia Row PUD document. Second Reading & Action

Request to amend side setbacks from 15'/1' to 5'/5' to comply with Georgia Residential Building Code fire separation requirements while allowing for windows. Planning Commission recommended approval.

Conditional use submitted by iONNA to allow a vehicle service station (electric vehicle charging) in a C-3, Interchange Commercial District, to be located at 4720 Hwy 17. Public Hearing & Action

Discussion of a standalone electric vehicle charging station. Recommended conditions include relocating access away from Ponderosa Road and orienting the building closest to US 17

Acceptance of an Annexation Petition for the Port Royal PUD POD IV

Acceptance of an annexation petition to extend the Port Royal PUD. Final rezoning decisions are expected by late summer or early fall 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion regarding a Resolution to withdraw City of Richmond Hill support for the proposed airport (Requested by Councilmember Hatala)

Withdrawal Discussion: Council discussed a proposed resolution to withdraw financial and administrative support from the Airport Authority.

Key Concerns:

- **The GDOT Regional Study:** Council discussed an ongoing GDOT regional study required to be submitted by the end of September. It was noted that this study is not site-specific but examines regional needs and existing airport enhancements.
- **Impact on Application:** Councilmembers discussed the possibility that if GDOT recommends a location in a neighboring area, such as Liberty County, the local application would be most likely done. One member noted that in a recent webinar, GDOT did not have Bryan County "on the radar."
- **Wait for Conditional Use:** It was suggested to wait for a formal application and the results of the GDOT study rather than "prejudging" the issue via a resolution. It was also suggested that

the legal way to stop the project would be to vote "no" on the conditional use when it eventually comes before the board.

Action Item: The Council agreed to postpone the discussion until the **March Workshop** to obtain legal counsel from Ray Smith regarding the financial risks and legal ramifications of the proposed withdrawal.

There being no further discussion, the Council adjourned at 6:38 PM.