

**December 1, 2025
City Council Meeting
6:30PM, William Simmons Administration Building
MINUTES**

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Johnson at 6:30PM
All Council members are present: Richard Bracknell, Alexis Boles, Hiley Miller, Casey Russom,
Howard Walden

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by Mayor Michael Johnson

Public Comments: N/A

Invited Guests:

Mayor Michael Johnson recognized the following:

- Introduction of the new School Resource Officer (SRO), Jeremy Davis: Mr. Davis was not able to attend the meeting.

- Recognition of the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association (GRPA) District 4 Class "C" Award Recipients for Temple's Recreation Department:
 1. 2025 Promising Professional – Jaila Orozco
 2. 2025 Outstanding Program, Programming – Juneteenth: Sippin' N Color
 3. 2025 Outstanding Program, Athletics – Red Ball Clinic
 4. 2025 Outstanding Special Events, Programming – Healing with Heroes
 5. 2025 Class "C" Agency of the Year.

- Recognition of the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association (GRPA) State Award Recipient for <10,000 population:
 1. The Temple Recreation Department – 2025 Agency of the Year

Approval of the Agenda, as presented:

Mayor Johnson explained there was a request to amend the agenda and to add items 13-16 which are all related to variance requests, as shown in the items below.

There was a motion by Council Member Bracknell to approve the amended agenda which adds items 13-16, second by Council Member Miller. Vote 5-0.

Approval of Minutes:

MINUTES: December 1, 2025 Council Meeting

There was a motion by Council Member Walden to approve the November 3, 2025 City Council Meeting minutes, second by Council Member Bracknell. Vote 4-0. Council Member Boles abstained.

Announcements:

Mayor Johnson announced that Thursday, December 4th is the annual Christmas Parade, Festival and tree lighting. It will take place from 5:00PM-7:00PM in downtown.

Consent Agenda: There was a motion by Council Member Walden to approve the consent agenda, second by Council Member Boles. Vote 5-0. (the items are listed below)

1. Select and Authorize ProDesigns to install a fence, opposite the pharmacy, on Sage Street for the Sage Street Beautification project in the amount of \$13,920.00, with funding from the GL beautification.
2. Approve for fiscal year 2026 (a) two percent (2%) cost of living increase effect with the first pay period in January 2026 for all full-time City of Temple employees who have completed their initial probationary employment period, and (b) merit increases up to three percent (<3%) for full-time employees at the time of their annual evaluation.
3. Authorize up to three percent (<3%) matches for employee retirement benefits beginning January 1, 2026. The city already contributes 1.5% to employees' retirement, and this match matches what an employee contributes up to 3%.
4. Authorize the Mayor to sign the MOU for the Recreation Department to partner with the Adell Foundation Food Insecurity Prevention Program, pending legal review.

New Business

1. Purpose of the Second Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 Operating Budgets.
City Administrator Lisa Jacobson explained that a second Public Hearing is required before adopting the FY2026 budgets. It is an opportunity for the elected officials and the public to ask any questions that they might have.

2. Presentation of Proposed 2026 Fiscal Year Operating Fund Budgets
The proposed FY2026 Operating Fund Budget was presented.

3. Public Comments: N/A

4. Comments by Elected Officials: N/A

5. Purpose of Second Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 Capital Budget

City Administrator Lisa Jacobson explained that a second Public Hearing is required before adopting the FY2026 budgets. It is an opportunity for the elected officials and the public to ask any questions that they might have.

6. Presentation of Proposed 2026 Fiscal Year Capital Improvements Budget

The FY2026 Fiscal Year Capital Improvements Budget was presented.

7. Public Comments: N/A

8. Comments by Elected Officials: N/A

9. Approve an Ordinance to adopt the City of Temple's 2026 Fiscal Year General Fund Operating Budget

There was a motion by Council Member Bracknell to approve an ordinance to adopt the City of Temple's 2026 Fiscal Year General Fund Operating Budget, second by Council Member Miller. Vote 5-0.

10. Approve an Ordinance to adopt the City of Temple's 2026 Fiscal Year Water Fund Operating Budget

There was a motion by Council Member Miller to approve an ordinance to adopt the City of Temple's 2026 Fiscal Year Water Fund Operating Budget, second by Council Member Boles. Vote 5-0.

11. Approve an Ordinance to adopt the City of Temple's 2026 Fiscal Year Capital Improvements Fund Budget

There was a motion by Council Member Bracknell to approve an ordinance to adopt the City of Temple's 2026 Fiscal Year Capital Improvement Fund Budget, second by Howard Walden. Vote 5-0.

12. Public Hearing on the rezoning and annexation request by Bilijack Bell with ISG, Inc. on Parcel #0117 0039B, 48.03 acres on US HWY 78 in Haralson County. This property is currently zoned County Unincorporated (District 1), and the request is to rezone it to Light Industrial (IL) and annex into the City of Temple to accommodate an industrial park. The planning commission tabled this item to the December 16 Planning Commission Meeting; however, the second public hearing was legally advertised for this meeting.

*Mayor Johnson explained that the applicant would have 15 minutes to speak. If anyone is opposed to the request, the group that is in opposition will have 15 minutes total to speak, so they will need to figure out how they want to use that time.

The applicant, Billjack Bell, was present at the meeting. He explained that he is requesting that this parcel be annexed into Temple and be re-zoned as light industrial. He stated it is easy to pick out the negatives, but the good outweighs the bad every time. He showed pictures of light industrial parks that they have successfully completed. He said these are not smoke stacks, they are trying to attract top end businesses. This parcel is in the unincorporated corridor. This property is currently zoned for agriculture, but farming is being greatly reduced in the state of Georgia. The owner of the property came to him trying to sell it.

He stated this project would be a job creator and a positive tax benefit. It would be a nice place to work where you don't have to get into traffic. You can get more involved in the community because you will stay in the community. Growth is inevitable. This is an opportunity to have high quality, controlled growth and the potential for more restaurants and hotels in the area. There is the potential for your tax bill to not go up because of this. They will be providing all of the infrastructure needed and will be adding sidewalks and landscaping along HWY 78. He is invested in Temple as well and has very high expectations for this property and he wants to protect it. He will have a development agreement and there will be no smoke stacks. He wants to work with small, local and regional companies. He is focusing on the positives which far outweigh the negatives. He owns ISG and will look after this project. You have to plan things or they will get planned for you. He will be highly selective of the businesses that will be there.

Mayor Johnson asked if anyone else wanted to speak for or against this request.

Colt Layman- He lives in Brookshire subdivision and this project will butt up to this property. Currently this property is zoned agriculture which would include homes on 5 acres along with other uses. He is concerned about water issues, police and fire. He stated that everyone in the Brookshire subdivision is opposed to Temple. You move out of busy places like Douglasville to places like Temple to get away from the traffic and congestion.

Wilder Inveness- He lives close to the Brookshire subdivision and opposes this project.

Joe Vincent- lives in the Brookshire subdivision. Works for GSP. He discussed his concerns with crime rates around industrial sites. From his experience and research, there is typically a big increase in crime. People will be coming from different cities to Temple to work. Traffic on HWY 113 and the surrounding areas will be tripled. There will also be an

increase in foot traffic. The Temple Police Dept is already short staffed. Atlanta is moving this way. He has concerns about insurance for property going up as well.

Joe Black- lives at 164 Brookshire Drive. They looked at houses for several years and this is a big investment for them. He stated if this is put in our backyards our property values will go down. There is a lot of vacant property around here that is not near a subdivision. It would make more sense to put this in an area which is not adjacent to housing.

Christopher Nolan- 60 Brookshire Drive. Stated there is over 40 acres, why would you build it so close to the homes. He is concerned about the additional noise and traffic. Traffic is already an issue. When there are wrecks on I-20 the traffic on HWY78 increases significantly. He has a son with medical issues and has had to have an ambulance come to his house a few times. How are they going to deal with public safety not being able to get to residents in a timely manner due to traffic, when there is an emergency.

Judy Black- 160 Brookshire Drive, She loves living in a small town and all of the trees and peace in the neighborhood. She is concerned about crime, the noise and additional traffic.

Jeff Reid- 71 Brookshire Drive. He asked why can't it be moved further away. It is backing right up to their property. Has the same concerns as everyone else.

*The 15 minutes ended. The public hearing was closed. Mayor Johnson stated that this item will be brought back up at the next Planning Commission Meeting on December 16th.

13. Request by Seth Brown of DBA Holdings, LLC on a variance to encroach upon the 50' buffer to build a single-family residence on LOT # 63, 139 West Woodland Manor in Deer Creek subdivision. Parcel # T030070193, Land Lot 181, District 6.

The applicant, Seth Brown, was present at the meeting. He stated they acquired ten lots in Deer Creek. He wants to get these houses built, they currently have eight under construction and would like permission to do these two, but the variance is needed to make the lot buildable. Community Development Director Deidra Walker explained that Turnipseed Engineering recommends that we approve these variances.

14. Hold a public hearing on the request for a variance made by Seth Brown with DBA Holdings, LLC, followed by council action.

Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing. There was no one else present to speak for or against this request. The public hearing was closed.

There was a motion by Council Member Walden to approve the variance request, second by Council Member Bracknell. Vote 5-0.

15. Request by Seth Brown of DBA Holdings, LLC variance to encroach upon the 50' buffer to build a single-family residence on LOT #69, 141 Creek Crossing Lane in Deer Creek subdivision. Parcel # T03 0070199, Land Lot 181, District 6.

The applicant, Seth Brown, was present at the meeting. He stated they acquired ten lots in Deer Creek. He wants to get these houses built, they currently have eight under construction and would like permission to do these two, but the variance is needed to make the lot buildable. Community Development Director Deidra Walker explained that Turnipseed Engineering recommends that we approve these variances.

16. Hold a public hearing on the request for variance made by Seth Brown with DBA Holdings, LLC, followed by council action.

Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing. There was no one else present to speak for or against this request. The public hearing was closed.

There was a motion by Council Member Walden to approve the variance request, second by Council Member Bracknell. Vote 5-0.

17. Receive Request For Proposal (RFP) bids for the recreation and senior center's main parking lot with consideration of bid award

Recreation Department Director Ingrid McKinley explained that there were three bids. The lowest bidder did not attend the mandatory meeting. The other two bids were both over the budgeted amount for this project which is \$110,000. Her recommendation is to put it back out to bid so that we can pull from a bigger pool. It was agreed that this should be done.

Closing Comments by Mayor and Council

Howard Walden- He is looking forward to the parade on Thursday

Executive Session, if needed

Mayor Johnson stated there was need for an executive session with no action to follow after.

There was a motion by Council Member Bracknell to go into Executive Session, second by Council Member Walden. Vote 5-0. 7:38PM

There was a motion by Council Member Bracknell to come out of Executive Session, second by Council Member Walden. Vote 5-0

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn by Council Member Bracknell, second by Council Member Walden. Vote 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.