

Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on February 17, 2026 following the Work Session, Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

I. Call to Order

Mayor Rusty Paul called the meeting to order at 6:26 p.m.

II. Roll Call and General Announcements

Members Present: Mayor Rusty Paul, Councilmember John Paulson, Councilmember Melody Kelley, Councilmember Melissa Mular, Councilmember Frank Roberts, Councilmember Mary Ford, Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Rusty Paul led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Public Comment

1. **Paul Terlemezian, 125 Laurian Way, Sandy Springs** - Agenda Item 2026-048
2. **Aaron Baker, 750 Dalrymple Road, Sandy Springs** - Flock Camera Data Sharing
3. **Tara Overzat, 303 Dunwoody Chace, Atlanta** - Sandy Springs Police Dept and Immigration Enforcement
4. **Cheryl Barlow, 250 Landfall Road, Sandy Springs** - Truck Ordinance
5. **Ginger Bradshaw, 425 Johnson Ferry Road NE, Sandy Springs** - Truck Ordinance
6. **Mel Mobley, 40 Whispering Way, Sandy Springs** - Agenda Item 2026-48 re Truck Ordinance
7. **Ronda Smith, 76 Long Island Place, Sandy Springs** - Truck Route
8. **Susan Kicak, 6497 Cherry Tree Lane, Sandy Springs** - Truck Route Ordinance
9. **Judy Bowles, 455 Bridges Creek Trail** - Truck Route on Abernathy

V. Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, to approve the meeting agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

VI. Consent Agenda

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, seconded by **Councilmember Mary Ford**, to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

- A. **2026-038** Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2026 City Council Work Session
February 3, 2026 City Council Meeting
- B. **2026-039** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve the Acceptance of a Driveway Easement from Kevin O. Skedsvold & Suzanne T. Stucki, on Property Located at 4810 Lake Forrest Drive in Land Lot 119 of the 17th District, City of Sandy Springs, Fulton County, Georgia (Tax ID# 17-0119-0006-010-5) in Relation to the S2185 Lake Forrest Drive Sidewalk Improvements Project

- C. **2026-040** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve the Acceptance of a Temporary Construction Easement from Jason Center and Marie Center on Property Located at 4822 Lake Forrest Drive in Land Lot 120 of the 17th District, City of Sandy Springs, Fulton County, Georgia (Tax ID #17-0120-0002-032-0) in Relation to the S2185 Lake Forrest Drive Sidewalk Project.

Resolution No. 2026-02-023

- D. **2026-041** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve the Acceptance of a Temporary Construction Easement and Easement for the Construction of Driveway Related to Property Located at 4990 Lake Forrest Drive in Land Lot 120 of the 17th District, City of Sandy Springs, Fulton County, Georgia (Tax ID #17-0120-0001-040-4) in Relation to the S2185 Lake Forrest Sidewalk Project.

Resolution No. 2026-02-024

- E. **2026-042** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Authorize the Settlement and Purchase of Fee-Simple Right-Of-Way for the Property Rights and Interests Located In Land Lot 94 of the 17th District, Fulton County, Georgia, and More Commonly Known as 4684 Roswell Road and for Other Purposes as It Relates to the Roswell Road Transit and Streetscape Improvements Project (Project No. T-0019)

Resolution No. 2026-02-025

VII. Presentations

There were no presentations.

VIII. Public Hearing

There were no public hearings.

IX. New Business

- A. **2026-043** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Appoint Members to the Sandy Springs Board of Appeals

Mayor Rusty Paul presented a Recommendation to Appoint Members to the Sandy Springs Board of Appeals.

Kim Gay and Justin Sparano have both completed only one term on the Sandy Springs Board of Appeals. Council should consider reappointing them to a second term.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, seconded by **Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky**, to Appoint Members to the Sandy Springs Board of Appeals. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2026-02-026

- B. **2026-044** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt the 2026 City Priorities

Eden Freeman, City Manager, presented a Recommendation to Adopt the 2026 City Priorities.

At the annual Mayor and City Council Retreat on February 5 - 6, 2026, staff provided an update on the City's 2025 adopted priorities and recommended 2026 priorities for Council consideration.

During the retreat, the Mayor and City Council discussed the priorities as recommended by Staff. Based on that discussion, the resolution was prepared for consideration by the City Council to formally adopt the following as 2026 priorities, in no particular order:

- Set the standard for excellence in CUSTOMER SERVICE, CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT, and INNOVATION in all areas of service delivery;
- Deliver the highest quality PUBLIC SAFETY services;
- Create and support targeted ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT opportunities with a focus on REDEVELOPMENT;
- Promote SUSTAINABLE GROWTH and foster ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP;
- Provide inclusive and diverse RECREATIONAL & CULTURAL ENRICHMENT;
- Enhance multi-modal TRANSPORTATION ACCESSIBILITY and maintain high COMMUNITY APPEARANCE standards; and
- Ensure long-term WATER RELIABILITY, RATES, and SERVICE for all residents and the business community.

These priorities will assist Staff in development of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. No immediate financial impact is noted.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, to Adopt the 2026 City Priorities.

Councilmember Paulson thanked **City Manager Freeman** for adding Innovation to the list of priorities. This is important. Please keep Council informed as it applies to all aspects of the listed priorities.

Councilmember Melissa Mular said Innovation is important and it must be in everything we do. It is also about a culture shift. We can do everything we want with technology and data, but we need culture as well to execute. There must be a plan not just to be positioned for innovation, but how to shift the culture. How will the City use innovation to support both internal operations and resident service delivery? Is the City putting forward an innovation action plan that ties together where we are with the innovation steps, and how we are going to shift the culture? Also, this would be helpful from a budget perspective to have the funding to execute.

Mayor Paul said **City Manager Freeman** started working on some draft policies and ideas that she will bring forward soon.

City Manager Freeman said the City already has innovative local government staff, but will always push for new innovations and opportunities. The conversations at the retreat were taken seriously.

Council will learn more about a concept for an office of innovation and delivery as part of the budget process. It would not be fair to bring that forward until a decision is made to add innovation as a priority. This is the first step in that conversation.

Councilmember Mary Ford said first as we get into the budgeting process, we should understand how budgeted dollars are being applied to each priority. It is my understanding that about one third of the City's budget goes towards public safety, and residents appreciate that. Second, during the retreat there was a lot of conversation about housing and challenges in the City, but it is not clear in these priorities. We will use data to understand what can be done about housing and to set clear goals for what we want to do about housing, but there is a lot to sort through as we get to the details of the priorities.

Councilmember Paulson said because of the amount of time spent on innovation, my suggestion is for the city manager to periodically report on what the different departments are doing from an innovation point of view.

Councilmember Melody Kelley said the packet Council received at the retreat was helpful in breaking down the priorities into sub-priorities, and for the goals discussed.

City Manager Freeman said progress made towards those goals will be reported in Inside Sandy Springs on a quarterly basis. We can also include agenda materials under Staff Reports quarterly. We are also rolling out a new budget tool. For many years, the City received the distinguished financial award for audits, but never received the distinguished budget award. The Finance team is working on this. Those goals are a direct component into the City being eligible to apply for that award, and this will be in the budget book.

Councilmember Kelley asked will customer service, citizen engagement and sub bullets, for example, be in the budget, as well as Inside Sandy Springs?

City Manager Freeman said yes. It can be reported quarterly on Inside Sandy Springs or under the agenda materials if Council prefers.

Councilmember Kelley my preference is quarterly. There are seven sub-priorities under Sustainable Growth and Environmental Stewardship but none refer to housing and it would be good to track this under Inside Sandy Springs.

Vote on the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2026-02-027

- C. **2026-045** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve and Accept a Grant Award from the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' FY 2026 Recycling and Waste Diversion Grant and to Authorize City Manager to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Keep North Fulton Beautiful

William Park, Urban Forester and Sustainability Coordinator, presented a Recommendation to Approve and Accept a Grant Award from the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' FY 2026 Recycling and Waste Diversion Grant and to Authorize City Manager to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Keep North Fulton Beautiful.

In 2025, the City of Sandy Springs (the “City”) applied to the FY 2026 Recycling and Waste Diversion Grant offered through the Environmental Protection Division (“EPD”) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in partnership with Keep North Fulton Beautiful (“KNFB”) for the Keep North Fulton Beautiful Recycling Center (the “Recycling Center”) Foam Densification Project (the “Project”). The purpose of this Project is to provide a permanent solution to a critical need at the Recycling Center to recycle polystyrene foam materials.

On September 16, 2025, Council approved the City’s application, and the City was ultimately awarded funding in an amount of \$178,461.00, which included a local match of \$1,175.00. The initial request of \$150,000.00 was based on cost estimates available at the time of project planning. During the application process, updated pricing and finalized vendor estimates indicated costs that were higher than anticipated to fully implement the Project. As a result, the final Project budget was adjusted to \$179,636.00.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Mary Ford**, to approve a Grant Award from the Environmental Protection Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ FY 2026 Recycling and Waste Diversion Grant and to Authorize City Manager to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Keep North Fulton Beautiful.

Councilmember Paulson asked is this grant fully funded?

Urban Forester and Sustainability Coordinator Park said yes. This is a reimbursement grant. Funds must be spent before receiving reimbursements from the EPD of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Councilmember Melissa Mular asked what maintenance costs are not covered under the grant?

Urban Forester and Sustainability Coordinator Park said the approved budget includes the installation for the awning for upgrades to the electrical system, and the installation of the unit itself. Hopefully this increased investment will minimize maintenance costs over time, but we will always use the manufacturer’s warranty first.

Councilmember Mular said this idea by **Colleen Sanjurjo, Executive Director, Keep North Fulton Beautiful** and will be fantastic. Looking forward to recycling dense foam.

Urban Forester and Sustainability Coordinator Park said this is a large innovation for the recycling center. Many municipalities do not have this service and citizens have to go further away.

Councilmember Mular said this idea should also be done with various cartons.

Councilmember Melody Kelley asked how will this idea be marketed?

Urban Forester and Sustainability Coordinator Park said the City of Sandy Springs and the recycling center through KNFB have a vast emailing list to folks invested in sustainability in metro Atlanta. Furthermore, as a part of the grant requirements, there will be education and outreach to reach as many people possible about recycling, and to maximize the benefit of this new installation.

Councilmember Kelley asked how long will it be before this becomes official?

Urban Forester and Sustainability Coordinator Park said it may be this year. Final completion of this project will be in 2028, and we will start looking at studies, self-assessments, and audits.

Vote on the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2026-02-028

- D. **2026-046** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of an Ordinance to Approve the FY2026 Public Safety Community Violence Reduction Grant Equipment Project Budget

Micah Patrick, Intelligence and Technology Division Director, presented a Recommendation to Approve the FY2026 Public Safety Community Violence Reduction Grant Equipment Project Budget.

During the December 2, 2025, City Council meeting, the Police Department presented a quick update on the CVRGE Project, originally awarded in 2023 by the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, to address changing operational needs and an update to the project scope. At the same meeting, the Department outlined the need to reallocate funds toward Sandy Springs Intelligence Operation Center (SSIOC) technology enhancements, including video wall displays, audio and control systems, and infrastructure upgrades, to strengthen real-time crime monitoring and analysis, and Council approved Constant Technologies, Inc. as a sole-source provider due to unique system compatibility requirements.

The budget amendment has been approved by the funder, and the City is prepared to proceed with the purchases. The project budget approved for FY2026 is \$510,815.00. However, because funds are being reallocated across the full grant period (which spans more than one fiscal year), this amount includes funds not originally designated for FY2026. As a result, the CVRGE grant budget requires an increase of \$29,517.43. This amendment will move all remaining grant funds into the FY2026 fiscal year, allowing the City to complete all remaining spending obligations and satisfy the remaining grant requirements ahead of schedule, and to close out the grant before the end of the fiscal year.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, to Approve the FY2026 Public Safety Community Violence Reduction Grant Equipment Project Budget. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ordinance No. 2026-02-001

- E. **2026-047** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of a Resolution to Approve Change Order Four to the Existing Contract with Vertical Earth, Inc. as it Relates to the Mount Vernon/Johnson Ferry Corridor Improvement Project (TS191) and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Revised Contract Documents

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, presented a Recommendation to Approve Change Order Four to the Existing Contract with Vertical Earth, Inc. as it Relates to the Mount Vernon/Johnson Ferry Corridor Improvement Project (TS191) and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Revised Contract Documents.

Mayor and City Council awarded the construction of the Mount Vernon/Johnson Ferry Corridor Improvement Project to Vertical Earth in the amount of \$15,881,593.38 on December 19, 2023. Notice to Proceed for construction was given February 26, 2024.

There have been three (3) previous change orders: Change Order No. 1, in the amount of \$189,598.62, was approved by the City Manager on January 7, 2025, bringing the total contract amount to \$16,071,192.00. This included elliptical pipe, hydrovac, night work, signal material, design and field condition quantity changes.

Change Order No. 2, in the amount of \$242,148.25, was approved by the Mayor and City Council on May 20, 2025. Of this amount, \$202,307.90 is funded from TSPLOST Project TS191 and \$39,840.35 is funded from TSPLOST Project TS192, bringing the total contract amount to \$16,313,340.25. This included drainage system design changes, city fiber network relocations, revised illuminated street signs.

Change Order No. 3, in the amount of \$177,820.45, was approved by the City Manager on December 10, 2025, bringing the total contract amount to \$16,491,160.70. This included water line for fire system, waterline capping and revised boring sizes at Roswell Road at Mt Vernon/Johnson Ferry.

Varying field conditions and plan modifications have caused the following cost change:

Additional Fiber Directional Boring: An error in the plans specified an undersized directional bore that could not accommodate the required conduits for the traffic signals and City fiber network at Spruill Lane. The plans called for 3 – 2 inch conduits in a 5-inch bore – which is not feasible. To accommodate the three conduits needed for the two intersections at Spruill Lane, the contractor installed two of the conduits in the 5-inch bore and the third conduit in a 3-inch bore. This additional cost reflects the under sizing of the original bore and the need to add the 3-inch bore to accommodate all conduits.

The total proposed fee for this Change Order is \$55,632.00. This will bring the total construction contract value to \$16,546,792.70. Sufficient funds are available in the TSPLOST Project TS191 to fund this work.

Mayor Rusty Paul asked why could the contractor not do the bore?

Public Works Director Martin said it was not designed at the required size. This bore is larger than the original design to accommodate the infrastructure required to connect the traffic signals there.

Motion and second. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, to Approve Change Order Four to the Existing Contract with Vertical Earth, Inc. as it Relates to the Mount Vernon/Johnson Ferry Corridor Improvement Project (TS191) and to Authorize the City Manager to Execute the Revised Contract Documents.

Councilmember Mular said three two-inch conduits would never fit into a five-inch bore. Why is the City responsible if the contractor missed this in the design?

Public Works Director Martin said regardless of this not included in the original design, the contractor is providing what is required to execute the project.

Councilmember Mular asked will the City have access to run something else through the other conduit at another time if needed?

Public Works Director Martin said it is not there. This is the extra work required to deliver the conduit as appropriate.

Councilmember Mular asked in the future would there be room for something else if the City had to run something through that conduit?

Public Works Director Martin said yes.

Councilmember Frank Roberts asked was this proposal discussed at the last Council meeting?

Public Works Director Martin said no. A CEI change order was discussed with Jacobs Engineering Group

Councilmember Roberts said it may be the same discussion regarding the bore for instance.

Public Works Director Martin said this was not previously brought to Council.

Councilmember Roberts said this is a lot of money to complete this project, and the contractor is asking for more money. How many times have they asked for more money since the project started?

Public Works Director Martin said this is Change Order No. 4. Compared to the base price the City awarded the construction contractor, this change adds 4% to the overall contract price. The other change orders were associated with underground work, for example water lines, other buried utility lines, storm water, and more. An additional 4% is reasonable for changes on a construction project.

Councilmember Roberts said they made a bid to do the project initially then came back for more money. This is the fourth time.

Public Works Director Martin the bid did not contemplate this work as sized. Therefore, the pricing provided delivers the additional work required.

Mayor Paul asked are there many underground utilities that are not encountered until the start of construction?

Public Works Director Martin said yes. A significant amount of underground utility exploration was conducted, and the City paid for a consultant to conduct that work. Regardless, knowledge of what is underground is not perfect.

Mayor Paul said the City has a lot of rock and other underground challenges in construction. Most jurisdictions in metro Atlanta have similar challenges. Is this happening largely because of the topography in this area?

Public Works Director Martin said this can be classified as unforeseen conditions. For instance, one change order had a change from stormwater pipe to round section to elliptical pipe. The elliptical pipe was needed to buy space to separate utilities.

Mayor Paul asked is this consistent with most projects that have a lot of underground utility and other work that we know of there?

Public Works Director Martin said yes, especially in a major roadway reconstruction like this. We also shifted roadway alignments. What instigates a lot of the utility adjustments thus far is the storm water system now chases the new curb alignment there.

Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky said this is a \$55,000 change order. What is the city manager's signing authority compared to Council?

Eden Freeman, City Manager, said \$200,000.

Councilmember Chinsky asked why is this before Council?

City Manager Freeman said Council must approve it because of the sum of all changes orders.

Public Works Director Martin said each time the \$200,000 mark is exceeded it is brought to Council for approval.

Councilmember Roberts asked what company was requesting different bore at the February 3 meeting? Vertical Earth may be asking for the same thing.

City Manager Freeman said it was Jacobs Engineering. The last change order was for construction inspection services for Jacobs to inspect the work of Vertical Earth. This change order is for Vertical Earth to do the work.

Councilmember Roberts asked are there two different companies asking for more money?

City Manager Freeman said yes, but for two different scopes of work.

Public Works Director Martin said the CEI last presented was for the extended period of time that they would provide inspection services to the City for.

Vote on the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Resolution No. 2026-02-029

F. **2026-048** Request for Mayor and City Council Consideration of an Ordinance to Authorize Modifications to Truck Route Ordinance and Designation of Truck Route Network

William H. Martin, Jr., AIA, Public Works Director, presented a Recommendation to Authorize Modifications to Truck Route Ordinance and Designation of Truck Route Network.

During a work session on February 3, 2026, staff provided City Council information on Chapter 58, Article II, Truck Routes (Sections 58-31 through 58-41) of the Code of Ordinances. This code section provides restrictions for the use of trucks within the City, including:

- Maximum vehicle weights
- Where and how long trucks can park
- Where trucks can be stored
- The time of day that deliveries outside of truck routes can be made
- Penalties for violation

Staff presented on several potential shortcomings of the ordinance that make the ordinance challenging to enforce, including:

- The lack of an accompanying list and map of approved truck routes

- Burdensome time restrictions
- Requirement that truck route lists and maps must be readopted biannually

The intent of adopting a network is to help ease the issue of trucks using local streets for reasons other than local deliveries or pickups. Without a network, more streets are allowable for use in the final stretch before a delivery or initial stretch after a pickup. By adopting a network, the City hopes to give truck operators more direction about the types of streets that are more appropriate for trucks and advising the minimal use of local, neighborhood streets, thereby improving public safety and increasing the life of the City's roadways.

Modifications to the ordinance are recommended to clarify the ordinance intent for enforcement purposes, remove time of day delivery restrictions, and remove the requirement to update the truck route list and map biannually.

To comply with Sections 58-32 and 58-33, staff recommends adoption of a Truck Route map and list. In an attempt to incorporate best practices, staff reviewed guidance from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) published in their 2024 Atlanta Regional Freight Mobility Plan. Criteria and considerations for truck routes include connectivity to highways and truck route networks in neighboring jurisdictions, consideration of adjacent land uses and zoning, roadway classification and lane capacity, and pavement strength.

Given these considerations, staff recommends inclusion of the following City-owned roadway segments: Johnson Ferry Road from the Cobb County Line to Abernathy Road, Abernathy Road from Johnson Ferry Road to Mt. Vernon Highway, Mt. Vernon Highway from Abernathy Road to the Dunwoody City Limits, Dunwoody Place from Northridge Road to Roswell Road (State Route 9) and Northridge Road from Roswell Road (State Route 9) to State Route 400.

Additionally, the following state-owned and maintained facilities, which are already designated for truck use, will be illustrated on the map and listed: Interstate 285 for its entirety within the City, State Route 9 (Roswell Road) for its entirety within the City; State Route 140 (Holcomb Bridge Road) for its entirety within the City; and State Route 400 from the Interstate 285 interchange to the Roswell City Limits.

A thriving commercial sector is important and staff's goal with the revisions and adoption of a network is to direct truck traffic to the most appropriate streets (those with the best infrastructure to handle these vehicle types). The goal is not to discourage trucks entirely or the transport of any specific material, as these are governed by state or federal law and the City is unable to regulate this.

Most truck operators want to stay on limited-access highways unless they have a local destination or those roads are experiencing extreme delays from a crash or other incident. If truck traffic increases on the locally controlled designated routes it will more likely come from the local streets the City is seeking to protect and not from the interstate system.

Staff recommends eliminating the time restrictions as residents often need deliveries or pickups during working hours, especially with the recent propensity of e-commerce deliveries to private residents.

If adopted, City staff will use our working relationships with Apple, Google, and other navigation technology companies to coordinate integrating the updates into commonly used platforms. Staff will also share the map with Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), ARC, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other partners.

This map/list adoption is intended to be educational to the trucking industry. Staff hopes the proliferation of this information helps truck operators find suitable routes and minimizes the need for police officers to stop trucks to check delivery destination slips on local roads, though that ability will remain in the ordinance.

Once a list and map are adopted, Section 58-33 requires that all listed Truck Routes be identified with posted regulatory signs. Public Works has sufficient funds in its operational budget to post signs.

Mayor Rusty Paul said the City has a truck ordinance, but it cannot be enforced because the City never designated what the truck routes would be. To protect all other streets, the City must designate truck routes. Staff reviewed the guidance connecting points to points and more, and this body will make the final decision.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, seconded by **Councilmember Melody Kelley**, to Authorize Modifications to the Truck Route Ordinance and Designation of Truck Route Network, with the truck route map attachment substituted to only include the existing State and Federal truck routes of Interstate 285 for its entirety within the City, State Route 9 for its entirety within the City, State Route 140 Holcomb Bridge Road for its entirety within the City, and State Route 400 from the State Route 285 Interchange to the Roswell city limits, and to exclude the City owned roadway segments proposed in the agenda package.

Councilmember Mular said I am supportive of the administrative cleanup. It makes the ordinance clear and hopefully more enforceable. Adopting and publishing a truck route beyond what is already acknowledged in carrier freight GPS systems, would officially designate and promote the City has a corridor that accepts trucks. The City may not have a resident centered case for expanding the map for people that live along the roads. The City has truck activity today. It is local deliveries but different from publishing an official truck route. Allowed access does not equal a truck route, and a truck route is what we designate, sign, and publish. Even if most trucks prefer interstates, publishing additional corridors gives routing platforms another option with congestion. We have discussed fanning out into the neighborhoods. The solution is clear in its restrictions as given, and it does not automatically expand the route list. An improved road does not automatically designate it as a policy choice that we make based on community and impacts to the neighborhoods. We do not need to do a map for enforcement, but we need to solve by adopting a map that we can enforce, which is the state federal routes without expanding additional in the City.

What is the City's plan for signage? Will they be mainly at the entrances to the City or throughout?

Public Works Director Martin said this ordinance would reflect only the approved state routes. The state signs its routes. Since there are no city routes required to be signed here, there would be no signage in the City of Sandy Springs.

Councilmember Mular asked would there be any saying, no trucks allowed beyond this point?

Public Works Director Martin said no.

Councilmember Mular asked will enforcement be complaint-based targeted for hotspots or residential, or when problems happen?

Public Works Director Martin said the Police will decide how to enforce. It may be on a nuisance complaint basis. There is a perception of inappropriate use of a route within the City that would warrant further police follow up.

Mayor Paul asked if a police officer sees a truck improperly going down the road, would this be cited?

Mike Lindstrom, Police Major, said yes.

Mayor Paul said if a truck deviates from the truck route, and they are not doing a local delivery, which is still allowed, they would be cited if an officer saw the violation.

Major Lindstrom said yes.

Councilmember John Paulson said across the street from the Coca-Cola plant is a small one-story industrial facility that periodically gets trucks. Currently trucks leave SR-400, drive on Dunwoody Place and deliver to the Coca-Cola plant and other buildings. They are allowed to do that because they are making a pick-up or delivery locally. My issue with Dunwoody Place as a truck route is the entire Dunwoody Place. This allows a truck to go to Roswell or further up, get off at SR-400, drive up Dunwoody Place to Roswell Road and continue north. If the City does not put Dunwoody Place, that does not mean Coca-Cola still cannot get their deliveries.

Public Works Director Martin said trucks can still make deliveries and pickups at Coca-Cola. It is not in violation of the ordinance. This is same for the office park across the street.

Councilmember Paulson said my issue is with Dunwoody Place being a truck route because that connects SR-400 to Roswell Road. Essentially that is an approved shortcut to go up to Roswell and beyond. It is no longer a local delivery issue and becomes a thoroughfare. This is not a good idea because of the number of residents there.

Councilmember Kelley said thank you **Councilmember Mular** for your efforts in organizing your communities and providing updates to Council.

Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky said thank you Sandy Springs residents for all of your outreach to Council. We received about forty or fifty emails and well-researched public comments tonight. The City is in the process of updating the Transportation Master Plan, and will provide an update to the Comprehensive Plan. Please continue to engage in these processes and get other neighbors and community members involved.

Vote on the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ordinance No. 2026-02-002

X. Reports

A. 2026-049 Mayor and Council Report

Mayor Paul said at the request of the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), I was at the Capitol with two other mayors and one city manager to discuss various tax ideas that would have significant impact

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on the City of Sandy Springs and future revenues. The hearing was delayed, but the chairman of the committee allowed the cities to go first due to council meetings tonight.

House Bill 1114 and House Resolution 1116 have a profound impact on the ability of the City of Sandy Springs and its revenues. Everyone is encouraged to read these bills. Working with Fulton County tax assessors, we determined that the bill is still a work in progress. As drafted now, it is about \$19,500,000 for the City of Sandy Springs, and \$122,000,000 for the City of Atlanta. This impact will be across state and local governments.

The City of Sandy Springs has had a cap on the millage rate and assessments before the legislature was discussing this. Most of the tax bills in the legislature now deal with income tax. This is the only one that deals with the City and is a priority there. The goal is to end all homestead property taxes by 2032. A lot of cities do not have industrial or commercial taxes and most of their revenue comes from houses. Some changes need to be made. The burden that a lot of homeowners have in paying their property taxes is not insignificant, but specifically the cities should not be forced to carry the full burden of the reduction in the revenue. Cities should have alternatives because of all of the great things accomplished. For the City of Sandy Springs, it is the ability that the Fire Department has made in saving cardiac attack victims. The City has done a great job and invested in ambulance responses, equipping the department with the ability to get there quickly, and trained over eight hundred people a year in CPR to keep those people viable, and saved lives. I also talked about the City's police department and the state has raised the salaries of state patrol and other law enforcement at the state level, forcing the City to compete.

Another factor with real impact is TSPLOST will be redeployed for operations. For years, Georgia and our local governments have underinvested in TSPLOST. It is available today because the voters of Sandy Springs voted strongly enough to overcome opposition in other parts of Fulton County. It is making a difference in mobility, congestion reduction, and all infrastructure that would not happen without TSPLOST. The City will have access to some sales tax revenues, but it must be shared with the county and the school boards. The City is allowed to make assessments for public safety and other services, but will still be charging homeowners the cost of Police, Fire, and Storm Water assessments. This is confusing and may raise many questions from residents.

I support homestead exemptions and reduced taxes on homeowners, but we should not cut services that saves lives and are crucial to the well-being of the City in the process. We want to find a solution. The public should be aware of what is going on, get involved and talk to legislators, and my conversation with our delegation will continue.

The ARTBEAT program is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity, talent, and spirit of the community by showcasing the art of our public-school students. The event was planned by the Sandy Springs Arts Foundation and was held in the Byers Theatre on February 7. The Foundation does a great job of getting the City's schools and kids involved in art, particularly performing arts.

The City Springs Theater Company had its annual Encore Gala on February 12 and raised a lot of money for their program.

Last night was the Irish American event in Sandy Springs, celebrating the 200th anniversary of Irish people being in United States. All the founders of America who were Irish were listed, and I was proud to be part of that celebration.

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It is the kick off to St. Patrick's Day and also the start of the celebration of the 250th anniversary for the country. High Kings is a great Irish folk band coming February 28 and tickets are being sold. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the activities on St. Patrick's Day.

Councilmember Melody Kelley said thank you Public Works for the recent North End Boulevard open house held in my district. My constituents provided a lot of positive feedback and this speaks to the quality of the planning. That project, together with what Parks and Recreation and Economic Development has planned, is being noticed in the community.

Councilmember Melissa Mular said the open house was well attended and Staff did a great job. ARTBEAT is one of my favorite programs to attend every year. What these kids do is amazing and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Also, I had the opportunity to read to the TLC Preschool and I appreciate the differing opinions.

Happy belated birthday to **Councilmember John Paulson**.

Councilmember Mary Ford said constituents are interested in supporting schools in Sandy Springs. Two Fulton County School Board representatives, Dr. Michelle Morancie and Katie Gregory, are hosting sessions here tomorrow and Thursday if anyone is interested in attending. Please contact me for information if needed.

One of my favorite professional phrases is, "those who do good get to do more". Thank you City Manager and Staff for all your efforts in delivering on the 2026 Cities Priorities, particularly on Innovation. We look forward to more information.

B. 2026-050 Staff Reports

1. December 2025 Unaudited Financials

Toni Carlisle, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the December 2025 unaudited financials. The City is at 50 % of the fiscal year. Revenues are at 69.16 % and expenditures are at 43.67% of the budget. All departments continue to operate within approved budgets.

XI. Executive Session

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Andrew J. Chinsky**, to recess from regular order and enter executive session for the purposes of real estate and litigation discussion. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Passed Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

Yeas: John Paulson, Melody Kelley, Melissa Mular, Frank Roberts, Mary Ford, Andrew Chinsky

Nays: None

The Executive Session began at 7:52 p.m.

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Melissa Mular**, to adjourn the executive session and return to regular order. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Passed Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

Yeas: John Paulson, Melody Kelley, Melissa Mular, Frank Roberts, Mary Ford, Andrew Chinsky

Nays: None

The Executive Session ended at 9:14 p.m.

XII. Adjournment

Motion and vote. A motion was made by **Councilmember John Paulson**, seconded by **Councilmember Frank Roberts**, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Approved: March 3, 2026

Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Raquel D. González, City Clerk