



**City of Lilburn**  
**City Council Work Session Draft Minutes**  
**Draft**  
**December 8, 2025, at 5:30 PM**  
**Lilburn City Hall, 340 Main St., Lilburn, GA 30047**

*Council Members:*  
*Johnny Crist, Mayor*  
*Christina van Maanen, Post 1*  
*Scott Batterton, Post 2*  
*Michael Hart, Post 3*  
*Emil Powella, Post 4*

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Crist called the work session to order at 5:35 pm.

Present:

Mayor Johnny Crist  
Councilmember Christina van Maanen  
Councilmember Emil Powella  
Councilmember Mike Hart  
Councilmember Scott Batterton

**II. Announcements**

**III. Reports**

- a. October 2025 Summary of payments greater than or equal to \$50,000

**IV. Special Presentation 2026 Millage Rate**

A presentation was delivered regarding the potential increase of the millage rate. Several options were outlined, each detailing how various percentage increases would support the hiring of additional staff to advance Council's 5 priorities and 20 goals. Department heads provided input on the number of new positions needed to enable the city to operate proactively

rather than reactively, including additional Police Department staff for safety and operational stability.

It was noted that the millage rate has not been increased in a decade, despite significant increases in operating costs and continued growth in Lilburn's population. In comparison to other cities of similar size and service demand, Lilburn operates with substantially fewer staff, further emphasizing the strain on existing personnel.

Council was advised that current staffing levels are not sustainable long term. Employees are experiencing excessive workloads and extended hours, leading to fatigue and illness as they work to maintain essential city operations. The proposed staffing increases, supported by a millage rate adjustment, were presented as necessary to ensure continued service delivery, improve organizational health, and help make the City of Lilburn a magical place for its citizens.

## V. Agenda

1. **Agenda Item No. 1** – Approval of Ordinance No. 2025-661, an Ordinance amending the text of Chapter 62, Article II of the Official Code of the City of Lilburn

A text amendment is required to bring the City Code into alignment with the State's update to Law Statute 40-1-116, which prohibits taxation on motor carriers.

2. **Agenda Item No. 2** – Approval of Ordinance 2025-662, an Ordinance amending the text of Chapter 105, Section 307 of the official code of the City of Lilburn

The amendment will update Section 307 of Chapter 105, "Trees," subsection (c)(3), changing the language from "Property greater than one acre in size" to "Property greater than five acres in size." This change will expand Code Enforcement's authority to require the removal of unsightly and rotting felled trees and debris from residential properties.

3. **Agenda Item No. 3** – Approval of Contract No. 2025-87, a contract with CIGNA for health, dental, and vision insurance for eligible employees from January 1 to December 31, 2026, at an estimated cost of \$1,547,754. The City's portion of the premium is an estimated \$1,208,229.

Health insurance costs are increasing. After extensive deliberation, a plan was introduced that maintains the coverage employees are accustomed to. Staff were able to reduce the projected increase from 39.7% to 28.5%.

4. **Agenda Item No. 4** - Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 78-2025, a contract with GMEBS for a defined benefit pension plan.

An amendment was made to the Defined Benefit Pension Plan contract to ensure that employees may purchase years of service using funds saved in their 401 pension plans. This option was not available under the original contract.

A motion was made by Councilmember Powella to move to Executive Session for Personnel matters and possible litigation. Councilmember Batterton seconded that motion. Executive Session was entered at 7:19 pm.

A motion was made to exit the Executive Session by Councilmember Hart. Seconded by Councilmember van Mannen. Executive Session ended at 7:27 pm.

## **VI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Councilmember Hart to adjourn the work session. Seconded by Councilmember van Mannen. Mayor Crist adjourned the work session at 7:27 pm.