



**City of Cumming Council Meeting  
Regular Scheduled Meeting  
January 20, 2026**

**I. Call Meeting to Order – Troy Brumbalow, Mayor**

The regular scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Cumming was held Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00 P.M., at City Hall in Cumming, Georgia. The Mayor and all Council Members were properly notified as required by law and all were present with the exception of Councilman, Christopher Light. Mayor Troy Brumbalow presided over the meeting and called the meeting to order.

**II. Invocation:** Mayor Brumbalow asked Administrator Phil Higgins to deliver the invocation.

**III. Pledge to the Flag:** Mayor Brumbalow led everyone in the Pledge to the American Flag.

**IV. Consider Agenda for Adoption:**

A motion was requested to adopt the agenda for the January 20, 2026 meeting. A motion was made by Joey Cochran and seconded by Susie Carr to adopt the January 20 meeting agenda. The motion carried unanimously 4-0 with the absence of Council Christopher Light.

**V. Consider for Adoption the Following Meeting Minutes:**

1. Work Session Meeting of January 6, 2026

A motion was requested to adopt the minutes for the January 6, 2026 Work Session Meeting.

A motion was made by Chad Crane and seconded by Susie Carr to adopt the January 6 Work Session minutes. The motion carried unanimously 4-0 with the absence of Councilman Christopher Light.

2. Executive Session Meeting of January 6, 2026

A motion was requested to adopt the minutes for the January 6, 2026 Executive Session Meeting. A motion was made by Susie Carr and seconded by Jason Evans to adopt the January 6 Executive Session minutes. The motion carried unanimously 4-0 with the absence of Councilman Christopher Light.

## **VI. Acknowledgements, Proclamations, Resolutions, etc.**

### **A. Key to the City Presentation – Thomas B. McDonald**

Mayor Brumbalow presented a Key to the City to Retired Army Colonel Thomas McDonald. Mr. Thomas "Tom" McDonald, 90, Retired Army Colonel, has served his country and local community nobly and faithfully for decades.

*Tom graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Military Engineering in 1957, and earned his Master of Science in System Engineering from the University of Arizona in 1967. He is also a graduate of the Columbia School of Broadcasting.*

*He married his first wife and mother to his three daughters, Karen, in 1959. After he and Karen divorced in 2003, Tom married his present wife, Kay, in 2004.*

*In 1976, Tom made the greatest decision of his life: to abandon his life to and be redeemed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Since then he has worked diligently to spread the word of Christ and inspire others. For the past several years, Tom has led the City of Cumming Mayor & City Council in the Capitol Ministries Bible Study. As a Chaplain for many years, Tom has also worked with Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief, as a board member for a jail ministry and for Christian Financial Ministries, a "Carpenter" with Builders for Christ, and a teacher and counselor for Christian Financial Concepts throughout five states.*

*He is also a speaker and writer on his website [www.WordsAlongTheWay.com](http://www.WordsAlongTheWay.com). Tom also authored the book "Genuine Manhood" as part of his ministry for men, and "Why Pray?" as part of his prayer ministry, a portion of which included teaching prayer to Protestant pastors in Yucatan, Mexico.*

*In his military career, Tom was stationed in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia, as well as the nations of South Korea, Japan, South Vietnam, Thailand, Egypt, and West Germany. His military qualifications and activities included: Master Paratrooper, Army Ranger, Expert Pistol Shot & Rifleman, Army General staff member, Airborne Battalion Commander, Commander of "Eagle" DRC Philadelphia, Airborne Brigade Commander, J6 of Unified Command, and Army Colonel (now retired).*

*In his civilian career, Tom founded McDonald Applied Technologies Corp. where he worked for 9 years, and was later involved in commercial and residential real estate. He also served as a county planning commissioner and county zoning appeals board member. He and his wife, Kay, enjoy traveling, and have visited numerous states and countries. He has also had a lifelong interest in sports such as track & field, swimming & diving, snow & water skiing, golf, tennis, handball, football, and soccer. He also has an interest in other outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, flying (he was a private pilot while stationed in Puerto Rico), and various other hobbies.*

B. Mentor Me North Georgia/Mentoring Awareness Month

Mayor Brumbalow proclaimed January 2026 as Mentor Me North Georgia Month for the City of Cumming.

***Mentor Me North Georgia**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2002, has demonstrated exceptional dedication to providing community-based mentoring programs that empower K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students to reach their full potential. Mentor Me North Georgia serves as a vital partner to the Forsyth County School System, addressing the academic, social, and emotional needs of our youth through its impactful programs, which include: Mentoring After School (MAS), which provides weekly one-to-one mentoring and group support for elementary students who face academic challenges; Connect Club, offering elementary, middle, and high school students a space to promote personal growth; and One-to-One Community-Based Mentoring, which pairs students with adult mentors for long-term, personalized support. These programs serve more than 850 local students every month, contributing to increased academic performance, stronger self-esteem, and the development of critical life skills. Mentor Me North Georgia's mission aligns with our community's shared values of inclusivity, opportunity, and excellence, making a lasting impact on the lives of students and their families. In honor of **National Mentoring Month**, the City of Cumming was proud to light the 'Cumming Home' Water Tower in purple and green from January 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, symbolizing our commitment to supporting mentorship and celebrating those who make a difference in the lives of youth.*

C. Moses-Elijah Stephen Dunn Acknowledgement

Mayor Brumbalow presented a letter of Commendation to Moses-Elijah Stephen Dunn.

*Dear Moses-Elijah:*

*I am writing today to commend you on your dedication and commitment to serving your local community.*

*I want to personally thank you for completing more than 170 hours of verified community service through various organizations in Cumming/Forsyth County, including: The American Red Cross; Meals by Grace; Lanier Place*

*Senior Living; church-based youth and homeless outreach; and community orchestra performances.*

*Additionally, I applaud your volunteer service at Sunrise of Johns Creek Assisted Living, encouraging the elder residents by sharing your musical talents, spending time reading with them, and offering general companionship.*

*In today's day and age, sadly, it is a rarity to find adults, much less teens, who are so generous with their time and talents, particularly with the elderly. I applaud all you do and appreciate your generous nature - it is truly better to give than to receive.*

*Best wishes for your continued success in school and beyond. May God bless all of your future endeavors.*

**VII. Old Business:**

There was no old business discussed.

**VIII. New Business**

**A. Planning and Zoning**

**1. Rezoning Application #2025-5119 – Shree Real Estate Developers, LLC (Public Hearing)**

Mayor Brumbalow advised that this item would require postponement to the February 3 Work Session Meeting. A motion was made by Jason Evans and seconded by Chad Crane to postpone the Rezoning Application #2025-5119 to the February 3, 2026 Work Session Meeting. The motion carried unanimously 4-0 with the absence of Councilman Christopher Light.

**IX. Announcements**

No announcements were presented.

**X. Executive Session (If Needed)**

City Attorney, Kevin Tallant, with Tallant Howell Law Firm, advised that no Executive Session was required.

**XI. Adjourn**

A motion was made by Chad Crane and seconded by Jason Evans to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously 4-0 with the absence of Councilman Christopher Light.

**Approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2026.**

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**Troy Brumbalow, Mayor**

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**Councilmember, Chad Crane**

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**Councilmember, Jason Evans**

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**Councilmember, Joey Cochran**

*Not present at January 20, 2026 meeting*

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**Councilmember, Christopher Light**

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**Councilmember, Susie Carr**

**Attest:**

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**City Clerk, Alison B. Smith**