

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA, STIPULATING TO THE ENTRY OF AN ORDER AND JUDGMENT BY THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, RESOLVING PENDING LITIGATION ENTITLED “BOBBY BLACK, PLAINTIFF, VS. GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA, DEFENDANT,” SUPERIOR COURT OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, CIVIL ACTION NUMBER SPCV25-01358-ST.

WHEREAS, Garden City, Georgia (the “City”), is a party defendant to the civil action currently pending in the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, bearing Civil Action Case Number SPCV25-01358-ST, and entitled “Bobby Black, Plaintiff, vs. Garden City, Georgia, Defendant,” (the “Litigation”); and,

WHEREAS, the Litigation involves Plaintiff Bobby Black filing a class action lawsuit against the City pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 48-5-380 on behalf of himself and all taxpayers similarly situated seeking refunds for fire fees alleged to have been illegally assessed and collected by the City since October 7, 2020, pursuant to Chapter 34, Article IV – Fire Protection Fee, of the Garden City Code, as adopted on November 15, 2010, and amended on November 7, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, to avoid the considerable risk, expense, and uncertainty associated with protracted litigation, the parties to the Litigation have engaged in settlement negotiations and reached a conditional agreement to fully and finally resolve all claims in the Litigation by stipulating to an order and judgment to be entered by the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in said Litigation; and,

WHEREAS, the terms of the settlement are incorporated into that certain Order and Judgment (the “Order”), a copy of which is filed with the Clerk of Council and is open to public inspection; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have conferred with the City Attorney regarding the terms and conditions of the Order in a legally noticed executive session, and has been advised that approving and stipulating to the Order is in the best interest of the City and its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Order provides that as of January 1, 2026, and thereafter, the City will not bill Fire Protection Fees pursuant to Chapter 34, Article IV, of the Garden City Code, as adopted on November 15, 2010, and amended on November 7, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, the Order also requires the City to create an Aggregate Refund Fund in the amount of \$1,400,000.00 to pay refunds to a class consisting of all customers of the Garden City Fire Protection Utility who were assessed and paid a fire fee at any time between October 7, 2020, and the date of the final approval of said Order, said Fund to be handled, managed and distributed by a court-appointed administrator; and,

WHEREAS, the Aggregate Refund Fund created by the City is expected to return to each qualified class member twenty-seven (27%) percent of the fire fees paid since October 7, 2020, less a portion of the plaintiff’s attorneys’ fees and expenses and the costs associated with

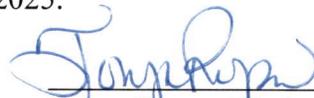
administering the Aggregate Refund Fund; and,

WHEREAS, the Order provides for the resolution of all outstanding issues in the Litigation, stating that the Aggregate Refund Fund shall be the sole and exclusive source for payment of the class refunds as well as all fees and expenses associated with the Litigation and the administration of the Fund, and that the City's payment in full of the amount of \$1,400,000.00 shall be in sole satisfaction of all claims against the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia, as follows:

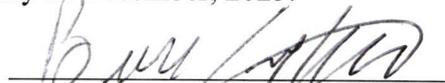
1. Approval of Order. The Mayor and Council hereby approves the Order and finds that stipulating to same is a necessary, reasonable, and desirable action for the protection of the City's interests and the welfare of its citizens.
2. Authorization to Execute. The City Attorney is hereby authorized and directed to stipulate to the terms and provisions of the Order on behalf of the City, and to execute in such capacity any and all other documents or instruments necessary to effectuate the terms of the Order and to fully resolve the Litigation.
3. Payment Authorization. The City's Finance Director is hereby authorized and directed to process the funding of the Aggregate Refund Fund as stipulated in the Order, from the appropriate funding source.
4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.

ADOPTED this 12th day of December, 2025.



Tonya Roper, Clerk of Council

RECEIVED AND APPROVED this 12th day of December, 2025.



Bruce Campbell, Mayor