

Mayor

Derek Easterling

City Manager

Jeff Drobney, ICMA-CM

City Clerk

Lea Alvarez, CMC

**Council**

Madelyn Orochena

Tracey Viars

Jonathon Bothers

Antonio Jones

Anthony Gutierrez-Leon

City Council**Meeting Agenda**

July 20, 2026 6:30 PM

Council Chambers

(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)

Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/

1. **Invocation**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Call to Order**
4. **Announcements**
5. **Presentations**
6. **Public Comment**

This section is for comment on any item on the agenda.
7. **Old Business**
8. **New Business**
9. **Committee and Board Reports**
10. **Public Hearing(s)**
11. **Consent Agenda**
 - A. **Resolution: Authorization of Interim City Manager Contract**

Approval of a Resolution authorizing an employment contract with the Assistant City Manager to serve as the duly appointed Interim City Manager.
 - B. **Minutes: June 29, 2026 Work Session**

Approval of the June 29, 2026, City Council work session minutes.
 - C. **Minutes: June 29, 2026 Special Budget Work Session**

Approval of the June 29, 2026, Special City Council Budget work session minutes.

D. Minutes: July 6, 2026 Regular Meeting

Approval of the July 6, 2026, City Council regular meeting minutes.

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

A. Crime Statistics: June 2026

Consideration for the acceptance of the June 2026 crime statistics.

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment

This section is for general comment.

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

20. Mayor's Report

A. Mayor and Council (re)appointments to Boards and Commissions. This item is for (re)appointments made by the Mayor to any Board, Committee, Authority, or Commission requiring an appointment to fill any vacancies, resignations, and to create or dissolve boards and commissions, as deemed necessary.

21. Council Reports & Discussions

22. Executive Session

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A 50-14-3, the City Council could, at any time during the meeting, vote to close the public meeting and move to executive session to discuss matters relating to litigation, legal actions and/or communications from the City Attorney; and/or personnel matters; and/or real estate matters.

23. Adjourn



Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM:

DATE: July 20, 2026

TITLE: **Resolution: Authorization of Interim City Manager Contract**
Approval of a Resolution authorizing an employment contract with the Assistant City Manager to serve as the duly appointed Interim City Manager.

Summary:

Approval of a Resolution authorizing an employment contract with the Assistant City Manager to serve as the duly appointed Interim City Manager.

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. Interim City Manager Contract
2. RES 2026 Interim City Manager Contract

CITY OF KENNESAW EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

THIS EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") effective the 1st day of September, 2026, by and between the City of Kennesaw, a Georgia municipal corporation ("City"), and Marty Hughes, Interim City Manager ("City Manager"),

WITNESSETH:

Section 1 Employment. Marty Hughes is duly appointed Interim City Manager pursuant to the Kennesaw Charter and City Ordinances. In addition to Charter and ordinance provisions, he shall be subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Interim City Manager agrees to remain in the exclusive employ of City and shall not accept employment by any other employer until termination of this Agreement, provided, however, that the term "employed" shall not be construed to include occasional teaching, writing, consulting, and military reserve service performed on Interim City Manager's time off, as provided in Section 9 herein.

Section 2 Term. The term of this Agreement shall be for an initial period beginning on September 01, 2026, and shall remain in effect until two months post-hiring of a new City Manager to facilitate a thorough turnover.

Section 3 Duties. Pursuant to the Kennesaw Charter, Section 2-13 "The city manager shall serve at the pleasure and direction of the Kennesaw mayor and council and shall assume the position and duties as the chief administrative officer of the city and such other duties as may be assigned by the mayor and council from time to time, including but not limited to director of finance and administration, purchasing agent for all departments, coordinator of commissions and departments of the city, and the general management of city business under the direction and guidance of the mayor and council." Unless expressly written in this agreement, Interim City Manager shall operate under the guidance of the City of Kennesaw, Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual (Ordinance #2014-11, September 2, 2014, as amended).

Section 4 Termination, Removal, and Resignation.

- (a) The City may terminate the Interim City Manager for Good Cause at any time without prior notice. The City may terminate the Interim City Manager without Good Cause on thirty (30) days written notice of termination. The Interim City Manager may resign at any time and for any reason upon thirty (30) days written notice, unless the parties otherwise agree in writing. In the event the Interim City Manager is terminated without Good Cause, the Interim City Manager may be asked/offered to return to his prior position as Assistant City Manager or shall be entitled to Severance as set forth in Section 5 of this Agreement.
- (b) For purposes of this Agreement, "Accrued Benefits" includes all vacation time, sick leave and holiday time accrued.
- (c) For purposes of this Agreement, "Good Cause" is defined as:
 - 1. Conduct found to constitute a willful and intentional breach of the Interim City Manager's duties as set forth in the City Charter or this Agreement;

2. Interim City Manager refuses on repeated occasions to comply with the reasonable policies, standards, and regulations of the City;
 3. A less than satisfactory annual evaluation as defined in Section 7;
 4. Conviction of Federal or State law constituting a felony or a crime of moral turpitude (Interim City Manager shall be suspended without pay during the time any such criminal prosecution or appeal is pending); or
 5. Willful and intentional insubordination as to the Mayor or City Council so long as the requested action did not violate any ethical standards, federal or state law, or local ordinance.
- (d) Pursuant to the City's Charter as amended, at any time during the term of this Agreement, the City may, if it chooses to do so, "remove the city manager from office upon a majority vote of the mayor and council" as prescribed by the Kennesaw Code of Ordinances, Section 2-52 as amended. Further, "after a majority vote to remove the city manager, the city manager shall have the right to request a public or private hearing within two weeks of the request. Such requests shall be made within 48 hours after dismissal. After said hearing, the mayor and council may adopt a final resolution for removal, which may be made effective immediately, by an affirmative vote of a majority of the membership of the council and office of mayor or reinstate said city manager," pursuant to Kennesaw Code of Ordinances, Section 2-52 as amended.

Section 5 Termination and Severance Pay.

- (a) In the event City determines to terminate the Interim City Manager without Good Cause, the Interim City Manager shall be paid three (03) months of full salary and all Accrued Benefits (collectively "Severance") the Interim City Manager was receiving before notice of termination, plus one (01) additional month's salary for every five (05) years of City service or, has the option, at his discretion, to return to his prior position as Assistant City Manager
- (b) In the event the Interim City Manager (i) is terminated with Good Cause, (ii) resigns, (iii) reaches the Final Expiration Date of this Agreement or (iv) is convicted of an act set forth in Section 4(c)(4) above, the City shall have no obligation to give any notice of termination, and Interim City Manager shall not be entitled to three (03) months' salary, but shall be entitled to Accrued Benefits only.

Section 6 Salary.

- (a) The Interim City Manager's Annual Salary shall be \$170,000.00.
- (b) The Interim City Manager shall be paid in installments at the same time as other employees of the City are paid.
- (c) The Interim City Manager shall be entitled to all cost of living increases afforded other employees of the City during the Renewal Terms.

Section 7 Performance Evaluation.

- (a) The City shall review and evaluate the performance of the Interim City Manager at least once annually in advance of the adoption of the annual budget. Said review and evaluation shall be in accordance with specific criteria developed jointly by the City Council and Mayor and conveyed to the Interim City Manager. Said criteria may be added to or deleted from as the City may from time to time determine in consultation with the Interim City Manager. Further, the City shall provide the Interim City Manager with a written statement of its findings and provide an adequate opportunity for the Interim City Manager to discuss the evaluation with the City.
- (b) Annually, City Council and Mayor shall define such goals and performance objectives which they determine necessary for the proper operation of the City and in attainment of the City's policy objectives and shall further establish a relative priority among those various goals and objectives, said goals and objectives to be reduced to writing. They shall generally be attainable within the time limitations as specified and the annual operating and capital budgets and appropriations provided.
- (c) In the event of a renewal or extension of this Agreement, it shall be deemed that (a) and (b) above are in compliance by both parties.

Section 8 Hours of Work. The Interim City Manager shall be expected to perform the duties of the position and be on the job during regular business hours and shall, in addition thereto, be expected to attend all regular and special meetings of the City, work sessions, etc. and regular meetings of the Planning Commission and other Councils and commissions as are necessary. It is recognized that the Interim City Manager may be required to work in addition to these specified times and shall be entitled to reasonable compensatory time off; provided, however, that compensatory time shall be taken as City business permits and shall not necessarily be on any strict hour for hour or day for day basis for work performed above and beyond the indicated hours and duties in the first sentence of this section.

Section 9 Outside Activities. Interim City Manager shall not spend more than six (06) hours per week in teaching, counseling or other non-City connected business without the prior approval of the City and shall not undertake any functions, which would conflict, in any way, with his ability to provide undivided fidelity to his duties as Interim City Manager.

Section 10 Vacation, Sick and Military Leave.

- (a) Vacation time shall be determined at the same rate as other regular, full-time City employees, and is subject to any current or future policies or procedures, as set forth in the "City of Kennesaw, Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual" (Ordinance # 2014-11, September 2, 2014, as amended); except that there shall be no cap limits.
- (b) Sick leave, holidays, and all other leave shall be accrued at the same basis and at the same rate as regular, full-time City employees, and is subject to any current or future policies or procedures, as set forth in the "City of Kennesaw, Personnel Policy and Procedures

Manual" (Ordinance # 2014-11, September 2, 2014, as amended); except that there shall be no cap limits.

- (c) All accrued vacation, sick leave, and holiday time accumulated from employment with the City prior to the execution of this Agreement shall be credited to the Interim City Manager.

Section 11 Health, Disability, and Life Insurance.

"Insurance Benefits" include the following:

- (a) The City agrees that the Interim City Manager remains entitled to participate in the City's Retirement Plan as currently enrolled.
- (b) The City agrees that the Interim City Manager remains entitled to participate in the City's Health (health, hospitalization, surgical, vision, dental and comprehensive medical insurance) and Disability Insurance Programs with no changes in coverage or responsibility of premiums and as currently enrolled.

Section 12 Retirement. Interim City Manager shall be entitled to maintain his retirement benefits pursuant to the City of Kennesaw's retirement plan.

Section 13 Professional Development. City agrees to permit Interim City Manager to attend, during regular business hours, Conferences of the Georgia City Management Association, and International City/County Management Association as well as, the state convention of the Georgia Municipal Association. It is expected that the Interim City Manager will make a determination as to the relevance to his duties of the matters covered before attending any of these meetings, but it shall be presumed that the above specified sessions are relevant. Interim City Manager may attend such other conferences, meetings, etc. as are approved by the mayor and council. City shall pay reasonable ordinary and necessary expenses related to the attendance of said conferences.

Section 14 Automobile, Cellular Phone, and Credit Card. In addition to the base salary, the City shall provide the Interim City Manager with the following:

- (a) The Interim City Manager shall receive a monthly payment of Four Hundred and 00/100 dollars (\$400.00) for the use of a personal automobile for business use with no additional allowance for auto insurance coverage ("Vehicle Allowance"). The Vehicle Allowance shall be subject to all required federal, state, and local withholding;
- (b) The use of a City cellular telephone and other electronic devices previously issued in his capacity as Assistant City Manager and to be used in the course of City business is subject to any current or future policies or procedures, as set forth in the "City of Kennesaw, Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual" (Ordinance # 20141 1, September 2, 2014, as amended);

- (c) The Interim City Manager shall continue to use the City credit card that was issued in his capacity as Assistant City Manager and is to be used only for expenditures necessitated by the Interim City Manager's employment, and is subject to any current or future policies or procedures, as set forth in the "City of Kennesaw, Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual" (Ordinance # 2014-11, September 2, 2014, as amended);

Section 15 Indemnification. City shall defend, save harmless and indemnify Interim City Manager from any tort, professional liability claim or demand or other legal action, whether groundless or otherwise, arising out of alleged acts or omissions incurred in the performance of duties as Interim City Manager. City may compromise and settle any such claim or suit and pay the amount of any settlement or judgment rendered thereon.

Section 16 Bonding. City shall bear the full cost of any fidelity or other bonds required of the Interim City Manager under the law or ordinances.

Section 17 Other Terms and Conditions of Employment.

- (a) The mayor and council, in consultation with the Interim City Manager, shall fix such other terms and conditions of employment, as it may determine from time to time, relating to the performance of the Interim City Manager, provided such terms and conditions are not inconsistent with or in conflict with the provisions of this Agreement, the City Charter or any other law.
- (b) All provisions of the City Charter, ordinances and regulations and rules of the City relating to vacation and sick leave, retirement and pension system contributions, holidays and other fringe benefits and working conditions as they now exist or hereafter may be amended, also shall apply to Interim City Manager as they would apply to all employees of the City, in addition to said benefits enumerated specifically for the benefit of Interim City Manager except as herein provided.

Section 18 General Provisions.

- (a) If any provision or any portion hereof shall be held to be unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of the Agreement or portion thereof, shall be deemed severable and shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect. In the event of a conflict between this Agreement and State Law or the Charter, the conflicting provision of this Agreement shall be void.
- (b) This Agreement shall be deemed to be made in, and in all respects shall be interpreted, construed and governed by and in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia and venue for all disputes under this Agreement lies in the Superior Court of Cobb County, Georgia.

Section 19 Complete Agreement. This Agreement and the rights under the City charter shall be the sole source of the Interim City Manager's rights, benefits and advantages, including but not limited to hearing rights prior to termination.

City of Kennesaw ("City")

Marty A. Hughes ("Interim City Manager")

Derek Easterling

Mayor

Dated: _____

Marty A. Hughes

Dated: _____

Attested to:

Nicholas Simpson

Deputy City Clerk

Dated: _____

**CITY OF KENNESAW
GEORGIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR INTERIM CITY MANAGER

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNESAW, COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City Manager's current contractual agreement expires on December 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the City Manager tendered a letter of resignation effective September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the City Council authorizes an employment contract with Assistant City Manager Marty Hughes to serve as the duly appointed Interim City Manager effective September 1, 2026 as shown in Attachment A.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Kennesaw City Council does hereby authorize the employment contract for Interim City Manager Marty Hughes (Attachment A).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this Resolution shall become effective from and after its adoption and execution by the Mayor.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Kennesaw City Council on this 20th day of July, 2026.

ATTEST:

CITY OF KENNESAW

Nicholas Simpson, Deputy City Clerk

Derek Easterling, Mayor



Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM:

DATE: July 20, 2026

TITLE: **Minutes: June 29, 2026 Work Session**
Approval of the June 29, 2026, City Council work session minutes.

Summary:

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. 2026-06-29 City Council Work Session Draft Minutes

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)**

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
June 29, 2026
6:30 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones Councilmember Madelyn Orochena Councilmember Tracey Viars Councilmember Jonathon Bothers Councilmember Anthony Gutierrez-Leon Deputy City Clerk Nicholas Simpson City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr.
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1. Invocation

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members Madelyn Orochena and Jonathon Bothers participated in the work session via teleconference, respectively.

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

6. Old Business

7. New Business

8. Committee and Board Reports

9. Public Hearing(s)

10. Consent Agenda

11. General and Administrative

A. Alcohol License: Carni Spirits

Consideration for approval of a Retail Package Alcohol License for Liquor, Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Carni Spirits Corporation D/B/A Carni Spirits located at 2953 Cobb Parkway NW Suite 11/12, Kennesaw, GA 30152.
Applicant: Jeffrey Henley

Business License Manager Kayla Willis presented a Retail Package Alcohol License application for Liquor, Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Carni Spirits Corporation D/B/A Carni Spirits located at 2953 Cobb Parkway NW Suite 11/12, Kennesaw, GA 30152. The applicant is Jeffrey Henley.

The applicant has completed the required alcohol workshop per Section 6-69. Signs have been posted, and this hearing has been properly advertised per Section 6-36. The current application and background check are on file.

A distance survey was completed by a certified surveyor and indicates that the business is within 300 feet of a private residence. Section 6-42 indicates that Mayor and Council may waive the distance requirement if the granting of such a license shall not have any adverse effect on the private residence.

The Finance Director recommends approval.

The Council will hear the request at next week's regular meeting scheduled for Monday, July 6, 2026.

12. Public Safety

A. Resolution: Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with Cobb County Police

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing a Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement between the City of Kennesaw and Cobb County Police for mutual aid and law enforcement assistance.

Kennesaw Police Chief Bill Westenberger presented a Resolution authorizing a Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement between the City of Kennesaw and Cobb County Police for mutual aid and law enforcement assistance.

Police Chief recommends approval.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the 07-06-2026 regular City Council meeting.

B. Surplus: Police Department Vehicles

Approval to sell or dispose of surplus City vehicles.

Kennesaw Police Department Chief Bill Westenberger presented a surplus list of thirteen (13) vehicles. Staff will attempt to sell the surplus vehicles on the open market using GovDeals.

Vehicle	Reason for Deadline
Ford Interceptor Sedan	Age/Mileage

Ford Interceptor Sedan	Transmission failure
Ford Explorer	Age/Mileage
Ford Interceptor Sedan	Transmission failure
Ford E-350	Multiple fail points
Ford Interceptor Sedan	Age/Mileage
Ford Interceptor Sedan	Age/Mileage
Chevrolet Tahoe	Transmission problems
Ford Explorer	Engine failure
Ford Explorer	Age/Mileage

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the 07-06-2026 regular City Council meeting.

13. Information Technology

14. Public Works and Building Maintenance

15. Recreation and Culture

16. Community Development

- A. **Final Plat Application: 1972, 1994 & 2004 Duncan Dr.**
 Approval of the final plat application submitted by Gunnin Land Surveying; this plat will revise the lot lines for lot 29 and update the lot-area table to reflect the final as-built locations within the townhome subdivision known as Devin's Shire (Parcel #20013800470, 20013801940, 2001380190). Case #FP2026-03

Planning Director Channelle Campbell presented the final plat application submitted by Gunnin Land Surveying; this plat will revise the lot lines for lot 29 and update the lot-area table to reflect the final as-built locations within the townhome subdivision known as Devin's Shire (Parcel #20013800470, 20013801940, 2001380190).

The application was submitted by Gunnin Land Surveying to revise the final plat previously submitted for the Devin's Shire subdivision. The application was submitted to revise the lot lines for lots 29 and update the lot-area table to reflect the final as-built locations; the development will consist of thirty-five (35) townhomes. The Mayor and Council reviewed and approved the initial submission on September 16, 2024, and the plat was recorded in Plat Book 282, Page 811, on September 17, 2024. A subsequent revision was approved by Mayor and Council on June 16, 2025 and the plat recorded in Plat Book 283 Pg 523.

The Plan Review Committee has reviewed the revised final plat and deemed the plat is in compliance and recommends approval.

With Council consensus, Mayor Easterling recommended placing the item on the Consent Agenda for the 07-06-2026 regular City Council meeting.

17. Public Comments

6:30 PM FLOOR OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

SAMUEL RUSCH [City Resident]: Mr. Rusch began his comments by mentioning April 2025. According to him, during that time, the Council tried to stymie city residents from exercising free speech during the public comments section of City Council meetings.

He commented that a Kennesaw City Council member advised him that many of the [seeclickfix.com](https://www.seeclickfix.com) repair tickets issued for his community were minor cosmetic issues not warranting repair. He asked the council member for clarity, but he was not given any.

He went on to highlight 3 [seeclickfix.com](https://www.seeclickfix.com) repair tickets, two of which are still outstanding. He provided five (5) exhibits to Mayor and Council (See Exhibits 1-5.).

Rusch questioned why the issues addressed in the [seeclickfix.com](https://www.seeclickfix.com) repair requests have not received the priority attention from the City as it should.

JORY LYONS [City Resident]: Mr. Lyons commented that he was addressing the Council because he feels that the Mayor is not prioritizing the requests of his community. Lyons is requesting a town hall to discuss the needs in the Woodland Acres community. He also wants to replace the chain at Woodland Acres Park with a bollard. Lyons also wants to know why a trail camera was installed in Woodland Acres Park. In closing, he wished everyone a safe and happy Independence Day.

MATTHEW MAYO [City Resident]: Mr. Mayor commented that last week while at Woodland Acres Park, a camera was discovered near the entrance to the park. Mayo contacted Kennesaw Police to find out who owned the camera. He was advised that the camera was owned by the City of Kennesaw. Mayo asked the city council if they had any knowledge of the camera, when it was placed there, who placed it there, and how long it would be there. Mr. Mayo requested a town hall for Woodland Acres residents.

6:46 PM FLOOR CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

18. City Manager's Report

- A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

19. Mayor's Report

- A. Mayor and Council (re)appointments to Boards and Commissions. This item is for (re)appointments made by the Mayor to any Board, Committee, Authority, or Commission requiring an appointment to fill any vacancies, resignations, and to create or dissolve boards and commissions, as deemed necessary.

20. Council Reports & Discussions

21. Executive Session

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A 50-14-3, the City Council could, at any time during the meeting, vote to close the public meeting and move to executive session to discuss matters relating to litigation, legal actions and/or communications from

the City Attorney; and/or personnel matters; and/or real estate matters.

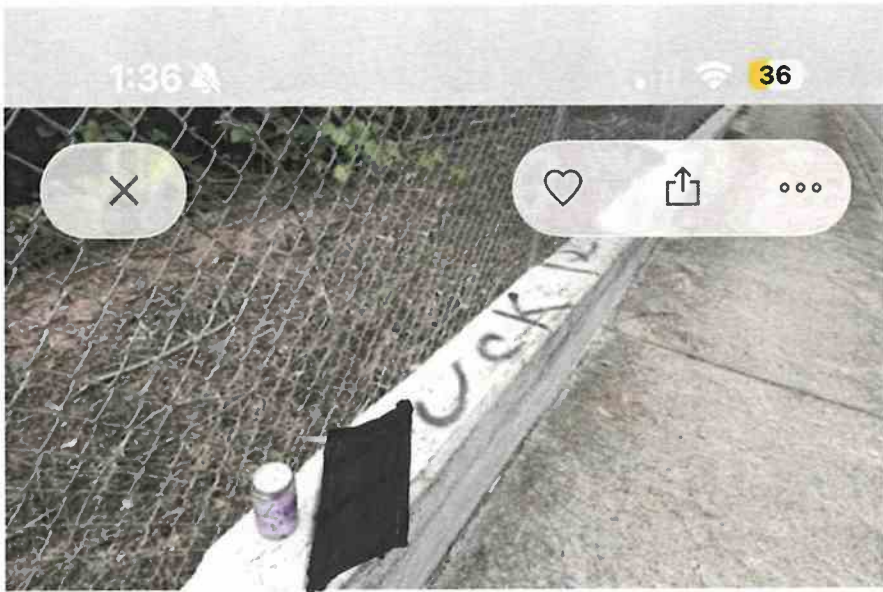
22. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, July 6, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.



Nicholas Simpson, Deputy City Clerk

DRAFT



Ex: #1

Graffiti

4010 Kennesaw Dr Nw Kennesaw, GA, 30152, USA

● Acknowledged

"@#\$\$% 12" & other graffiti - please clean them up!

DRAFT

[Show More](#)

Comments (1)

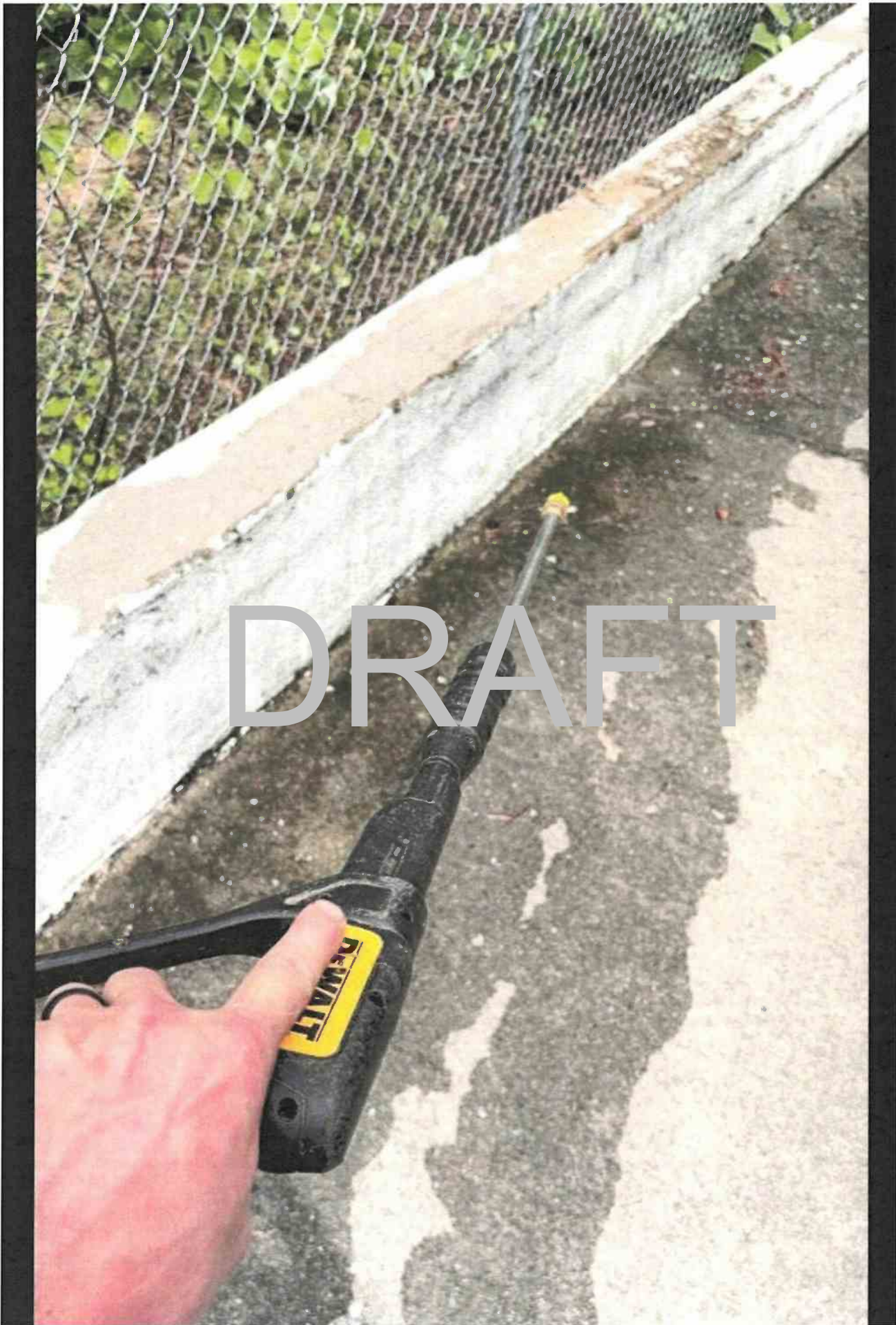
Markques Givens

5/29/26 10:44 AM

Thank you for submitting a service request with the City of Kennesaw. We appreciate your help in identifying areas in need of attention.

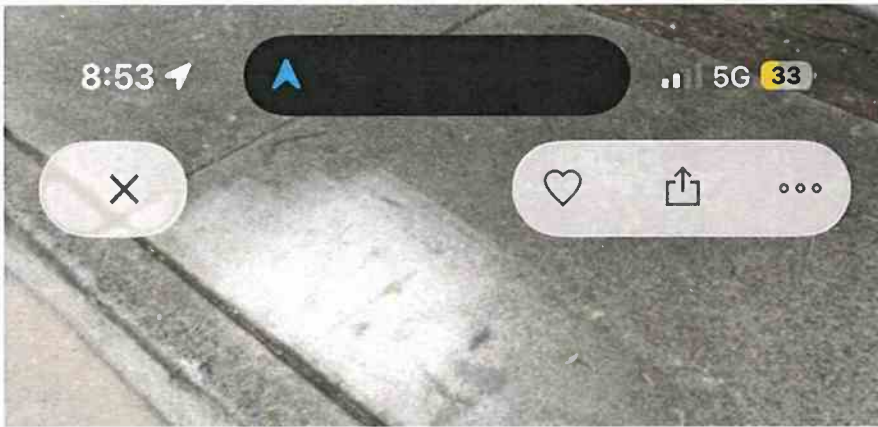
Post

Public status changes are not available for this request.



Ex: #2

Ex: #3



Graffiti

2515-2519 Ridgecrest Dr Nw Kennesaw, Georgia, 3...

● Acknowledged

Y'all already "removed" this, but we can still read every bit of it. Please remove properly thanks!

DRAFT

[Show More](#)

Comments (1)

Markques Givens

5/29/26 8:08 AM

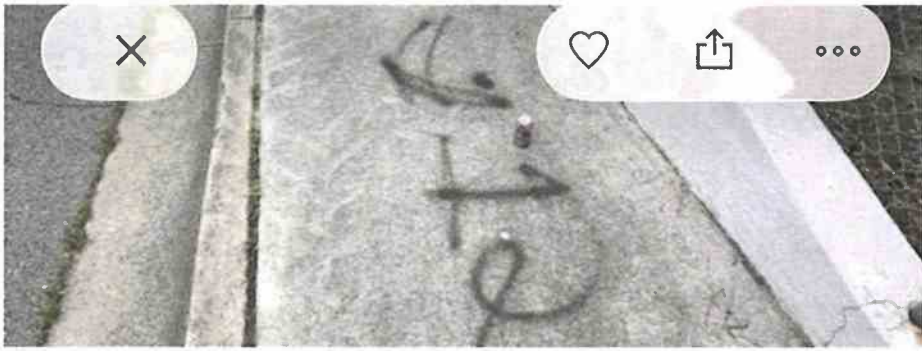
Thank you for submitting a service request with the City of Kennesaw. We appreciate your help in identifying areas in need of attention. Your request is currently being reviewed by City staff.

Post

Public status changes are not available for this request.

Ex: #4





Ex #5

Graffiti

4020 Kennesaw Dr Nw Kennesaw, GA, 30152, USA

● Acknowledged

Please remove thanks!

Show More

DRAFT

Comments (1)



Markques Givens

5/29/26 8:55 AM

Thank you for submitting a service request with the City of Kennesaw. We appreciate your help in identifying areas in need of attention. Your request is currently being reviewed by City staff.

200 1000 words...

Post

Public status changes are not available for this request.

Names and Addresses will be disclosed in the Permanent Minutes of the
City of Kennesaw

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS LEGIBLE AND CLEAR

**City Council Work Session
6/29/2026
Public Comment Sign-in**

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Jory Lyons	2441 Forrest Dr.	Woodland acres
2	Matthew Mayo	2570 Woodland Dr	Woodland Acres
3	Samuel Rusch	2459 Pine Dr NW	↓
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19			

DRAFT



Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM:

DATE: July 20, 2026

TITLE: **Minutes: June 29, 2026 Special Budget Work Session**
Approval of the June 29, 2026, Special City Council Budget work session minutes.

Summary:

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. 2026-06-29 Special Budget Work Session Draft Minutes

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)**

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
June 29, 2026
7:00 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones Councilmember Madelyn Orochena Councilmember Tracey Viars Councilmember Jonathon Bothers Councilmember Anthony Gutierrez-Leon Deputy City Clerk Nicholas Simpson City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr.
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1. Invocation

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Easterling called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Council members Madelyn Orochena and Jonathon Bothers participated in the special budget work session via teleconference, respectively.

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

6. Old Business

7. New Business

A. Budget: FY 2026-2027

Draft Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Kennesaw City Manager Jeff Drobney presented the Fiscal Year 2027 recommended budget to the Council for their consideration. The Fiscal Year 2027 proposed budget is \$35,008, 528, which is an approximate 1.82 percent increase from the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Dr. Drobney provided some budget highlights, including the recommended millage rate remaining at 7.75 mills, a three percent recommended Cost of Living Adjustment for all staff, and \$357,752 to fund the City's reserve account. For Fiscal year 2026, projected benefits and health care costs decreased by approximately 1 percent and retirement contributions increased by approximately 5 percent, with both costs being spread throughout each department. Dr. Drobney reviewed all proposed budget assumptions, including all revenue and expenditure highlights. The 100 percent

senior tax exemption will continue to have a negative impact on the City's General Fund and is projected to total \$1,847,630. This is almost a 2 percent increase over FY26 (\$1,811,906) and a 7.9 percent increase over FY25 (\$1,711,454). Expenditure highlights include requests for 6 new full-time and 2 part-time positions received across departments and 9 requests for personnel reclassifications. Additional expenditure highlights include how the Court Project fund, Court Services Improvement fund, Stormwater fund, Reserve fund, and Impact Fees will be used to cover various projects and needs [See Exhibit A].

Department Heads presented their operating budgets, highlights, any capital outlay items, and position summaries for their departments, respectively.

8. Committee and Board Reports

9. Public Hearing(s)

10. Consent Agenda

11. General and Administrative

12. Public Safety

13. Information Technology

14. Public Works and Building Maintenance

15. Recreation and Culture

16. Community Development

17. Public Comments

18. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

19. Mayor's Report

A. Mayor and Council (re)appointments to Boards and Commissions. This item is for (re)appointments made by the Mayor to any Board, Committee, Authority, or Commission requiring an appointment to fill any vacancies, resignations, and to create or dissolve boards and commissions, as deemed necessary.

20. Council Reports & Discussions

21. Executive Session

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A 50-14-3, the City Council could, at any time during the meeting, vote to close the public meeting and move to executive session to discuss matters relating to litigation, legal actions and/or communications from

the City Attorney; and/or personnel matters; and/or real estate matters.

22. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'NS', is positioned above a horizontal line.

Nicholas Simpson, Deputy City Clerk



FY 2027 Recommended Budget

Jeff Drobney
City Manager

Overview



After nearly three months of planning, budget reviews, and meetings, we're here tonight to present the recommended FY27 budget. This has been a team effort, and I want to acknowledge the exceptional work of our Finance team—Jennifer, Tony, and Allen—who have each gone above and beyond. Special thanks to Anna for her meticulous attention to detail and her unwavering support wherever it was needed. Their professionalism and teamwork have been outstanding throughout this process. This proposed budget reflects the priorities we've heard from our residents and reinforces our shared commitment to delivering high-quality services and enhancing the quality of life in our community. It also demonstrates fiscal responsibility, incorporating thoughtful planning to help safeguard against potential future challenges—whether economic, environmental, or otherwise.

FY 2027 Recommended Budget



- Staff is presenting for consideration the Fiscal Year 2027 Recommended Budget totaling \$35,008,528. This refers to the period of time between October 1, 2026 and September 30, 2027.
- Property taxes remain the City's largest source of revenue. A projected 2% increase in property tax revenue is driven by new development and re-valuations by the Cobb County Tax Assessor. In most cases, residents with the Floating Homestead Exemption will not see an increase. In 2024, steady growth and conservative budgeting allowed Kennesaw to reduce the millage rate of 8 mills to 7.75 mills.

Budget Highlights



- Recommend millage rate remains steady at 7.75 mills
- Real, Bond and Personal Tax Revenue budgeted at 2% increase over current year actual
- \$357,752 to fund City's reserve account
- There is a 3% COLA proposed in the FY 27 budget
- Salary budgets in all departments include budgeting the cost of employees selling sick & vacation time as allowed by City policy, based on historic trends
- FY 27 projected benefit and health care costs decreased by approximately 1% and retirement contributions increased by approximately 5%— both are spread throughout each department.
- Increase of overall budget between FY 26 and FY 27 is approximately 1.82%
- The City plans to use \$1 million from its general fund to complete public facing improvements, including street resurfacing and upgrades to parks and recreation facilities. These projects directly benefit residents, improve safety and accessibility, and address maintenance needs before they become more costly.

Revenue Highlights



- We see Building Services revenues in FY26 remain largely stagnant and project this trend will continue into FY27. This trend is largely driven by rising construction costs, influenced by inflation and increased tariffs on building materials, and higher interest rates. These financial pressures have caused developers to delay or to scale back projects, resulting in fewer permit applications and reduced revenue for the City.
- Parks & Recreation Fees: Staff recommends adjusting Parks and Recreation fees to keep pace with rising operational and maintenance costs and to ensure that facilities, programs, and amenities remain safe, high-quality, and accessible. These modest increases help the City recover a fair portion of service costs while keeping fees competitive with neighboring communities. Examples of increases include raising the annual Recreation Center Membership fee by \$5.00 across the board and a \$5.00 per hour increase to reserve the Craft Lab, Painting Lab, Fitness Rooms, and Dance Rooms. The additional revenue will directly support facility upkeep, program improvements, and expanded community offerings, allowing the City to maintain strong service levels without placing the full burden on general taxpayers.
- The FY27 revenue for Insurance Premium Tax is projected to increase by \$400,000 over the FY26 projection of \$3,000,000.
- We project a combined increase of \$135,000 in Franchise Fee payments for electricity and gas.

Revenue Highlights Cont.



- **Stormwater Fees:** Staff recommends adjusting stormwater fees to ensure the fund remains financially sustainable and capable of meeting growing maintenance and regulatory needs. The residential flat rate would increase from \$5.00 to \$5.50, and the non-residential rate would rise from \$1.13 to \$1.65 per 1,000 sq. ft. of impervious surface. These updates ensure that stormwater infrastructure remains reliable and well maintained. The increase is expected to generate approximately \$33,000 in additional monthly revenue, which will directly support system upkeep, regulatory compliance, and critical improvements.
- **Streetlight Fees:** Staff recommends adjusting the streetlight fee, increasing the monthly rate from \$2.15 to \$2.20. This change will help cover rising energy and maintenance costs needed to keep neighborhood streetlights operating safely and reliably.
- The City anticipates a projected payment of \$1,196,585 in FY27 from Cobb County, a 7% increase over the \$1,116,813 received in FY26. This payment is part of the long-term funding structure established under the 10-year intergovernmental agreement associated with HB 489. This increase reflects Cobb County's scheduled adjustments to service-delivery funding and is incorporated into the City's financial plan to support ongoing municipal operations and service commitments.

Revenue Highlights – Senior Tax Exemption

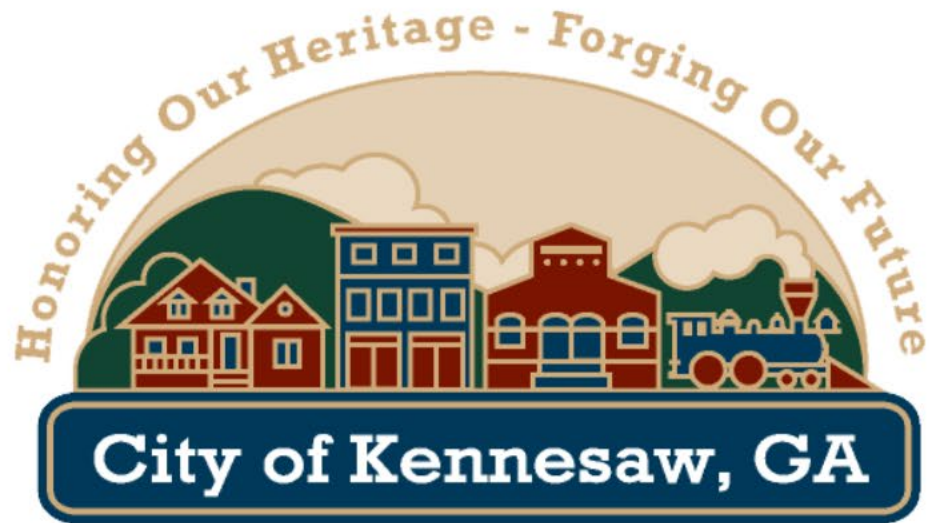


Senior Tax Exemption: The 100% Senior property tax exemption continues to have a significant negative impact on the General Fund. Any resident over 65 years of age is exempt from City of Kennesaw ad valorem property tax for the property on which they reside.

This exemption has been in place since 1959 and for FY27, the total dollar amounts not being collected into the General Fund is projected to total \$1,847,630. This is almost a 2% increase over FY26 (\$1,811,906) and a 7.9% increase from FY25(\$1,711,454).

Since 2012 when the amount of the senior exemption totaled \$320,576 there has been a 476% increase. With the youngest baby boomers (age 61) being born in 1965 and with 10,000 people a day turning 65 years of age, the impact of the 100% senior exemption will continue to grow and have a larger impact on the General Fund.

The senior exemption surpassed \$1 million dollars in FY 2022. If present trends continue the total amount of the senior exemption will surpass \$2 million dollars in FY28.



FY 27 Expenditure Highlights

Personnel



Requests for six (6) new full-time positions and two (2) part-time positions were received across departments, and there were nine (9) requests for reclassifications.

No new positions are currently recommended for approval. However, it is recommended to reclassify positions in both the IT/GIS Department and the Police Department. Combined, the FY27 budget impact for all recommended reclassifications comes to an increase of \$27,500.

Reclassifications	
Department	Adjustment
IT/GIS	GIS Specialist to Analyst.
IT	IT Network Manager to IT Operations Manager.
IT	IT Operations Specialist to IT Infrastructure Administrator.
Police	Two (2) Captains to Major. Both Captain positions will be frozen following the reclassification.
Police	One (1) PO2 position to Sergeant.
Police	CID Administrative Assistant to Civilian Evidence Tech. The CID Admin position will be dissolved.

Court Project Fund



Court Project Fund		
<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Police	B&T APC 9SC Sub-Gun Kits (8)	\$42,000
Police	B&T Less Lethal Launcher Kits (4)	\$12,000
Police	45 License Scanners for DigiTicket	\$23,000
Court	Court Notice Reminders- CompleteSMS	\$3,000
Court	2 Televisions for Municipal Court Staff	\$2,000
Total Use of CPF		\$82,000

Court Services Improvement Fund



Court Services Improvement Fund		
<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Police	Rifle Rated Shields (3)	\$30,000
Police	Ballistic Helmet Kits (8)	\$20,000
Police	Police Shotguns – Beretta A300 (10)	\$20,000
Police	Handguns (10)	\$11,400
Police	DigiTicket	\$80,000
Facilities & Building Maintenance	Cameras at City Hall	\$45,000
Facilities & Building Maintenance	Generator Expansion/Additions at City Hall	\$20,000
Total Use of CSIF		\$226,400

Stormwater Fund



Stormwater Fund	
<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kubota Skid Steer	\$85,000

Capital Requests – General Fund

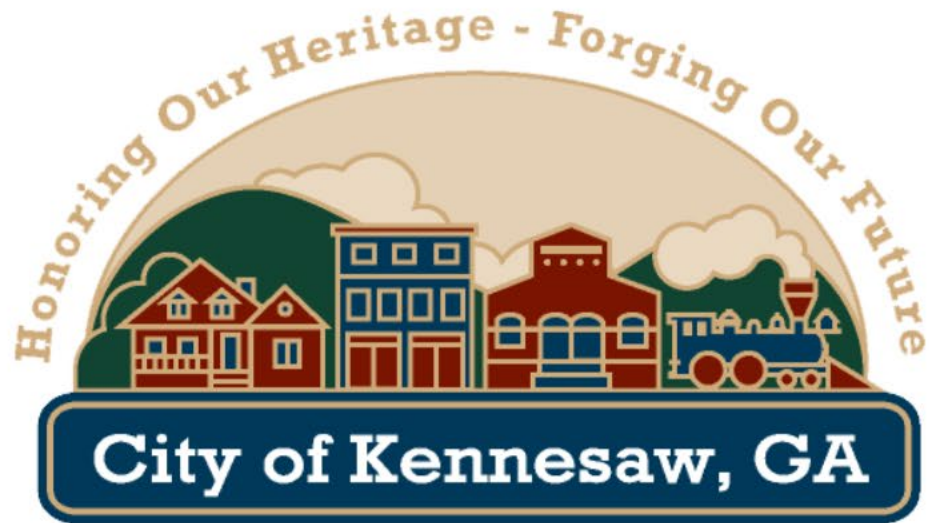


Capital Requests Funded from General Fund		
<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Police	Marked Vehicle	\$91,000
Police	Marked Vehicle	\$91,000
Police	Marked Vehicle	\$91,000
Police	Marked Vehicle	\$91,000
Police	Marked Vehicle	\$91,000
Police	Unmarked Vehicle	\$61,000
Police	Unmarked Vehicle	\$61,000
Police	Unmarked Vehicle	\$61,000
Police	Magnet GrayKey Lite (digital forensics)	\$6,300
Public Works – Highways & Streets	Zero Turn Mower	\$14,000
Public Works – Highways & Streets	Zero Turn Mower	\$15,000
Public Works – Highways & Streets	Hot Asphalt Trailer	\$40,000
Public Works – Highways & Streets	Street Resurfacing	\$500,000
Parks & Recreation	Walk Behind Mower	\$8,478
Parks & Recreation	4 x 4 Gator	\$15,328
Parks & Recreation	Swift Cantrell Park Water Fountains Replacement	\$50,000
Parks & Recreation	Sound System for Recreation Center Gym	\$15,000
Museum/ Buildings & Facilities Maintenance	Cameras at Museum	\$70,000
Information Technology	Local Data Storage	\$70,000
Total		\$1,442,106

Non-Capital Requests



Non-Capital Requests Funded from General Fund		
<u>Department</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cemetery	Section III Tree Removal	\$12,500
Museum	New Exterior Sign for Front of Museum	\$9,500
Public Works – Highways & Streets	Road Salt	\$20,000
Public Works – Highways & Streets	Rubber Pellets for Amphitheater	\$30,000
Buildings & Facilities Maintenance	Downtown Plaza & Pedestrian Tunnel Reader Boards & Signage	\$11,000
Buildings & Facilities Maintenance	Replacement gate for Smith Gilbert Gardens	\$18,000
Buildings & Facilities Maintenance	IT Renovations (Replace Carpet, Paint, and lights in IT offices)	\$20,000
Parks & Recreation/ Buildings & Facilities Maintenance	Banquet Hall Flooring Replacement	\$40,000
Parks & Recreation/ Buildings & Facilities Maintenance	Baseball and Softball Building Renovations	\$100,000
Parks & Recreation/ Buildings & Facilities Maintenance	Skate Park Restroom Renovations	\$25,000
Parks & Recreation/ Buildings & Facilities Maintenance	Swift Cantrell/Adams Park Sidewalk Correction/Remediation	\$45,000
Parks & Recreation/ Buildings & Facilities Maintenance	AV Replacement/Repair BRCC Banquet Hall/Large Meeting Room	\$35,000
Parks & Recreation	Swift Cantrell Skate Park Rehabilitation	\$50,000
Parks & Recreation	Scanning Equipment for Recreation Center and BRCC	\$5,850
Total Non-Capital Requests Funded from General Fund		\$421,850



How Are we Funding Community Priorities?

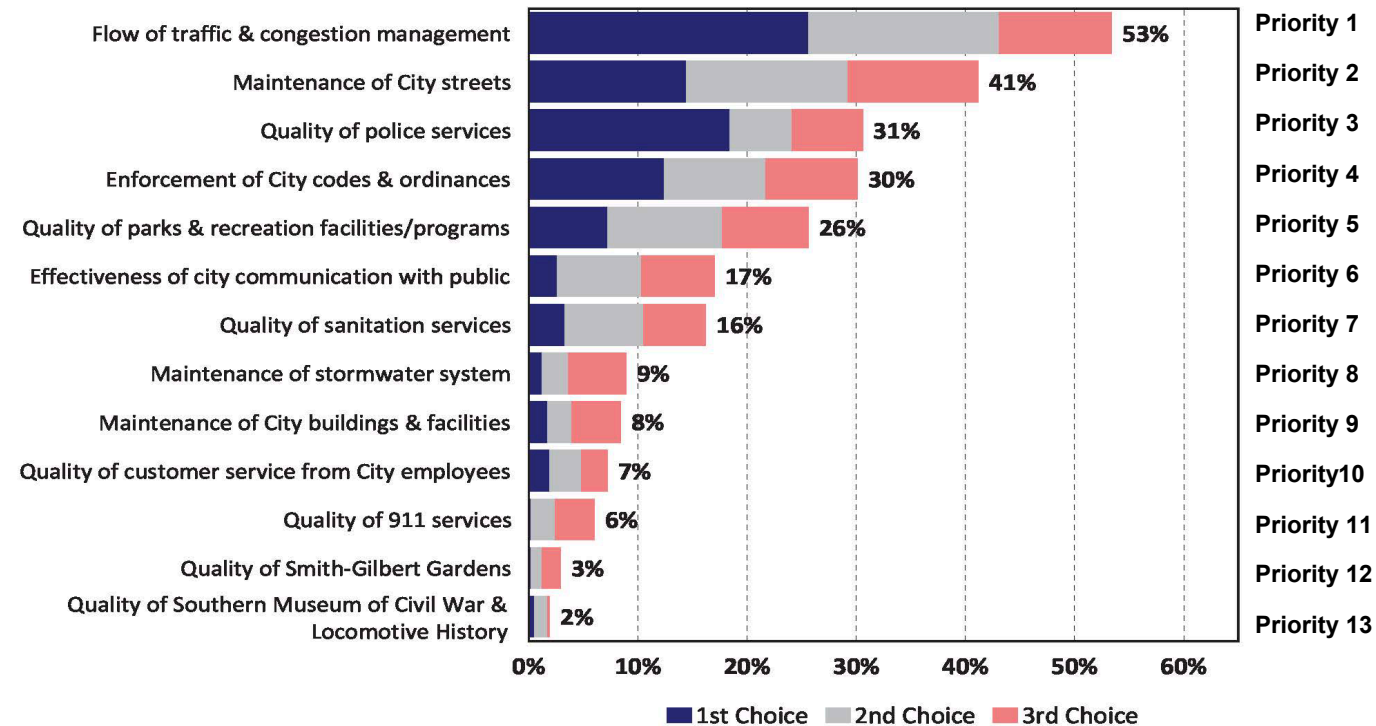
Community Priorities



2022 City of Kennesaw Community Survey: Findings Report

Q2. City Services That Should Receive the Most Emphasis Over the Next 3-5 Years by Major Category

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices





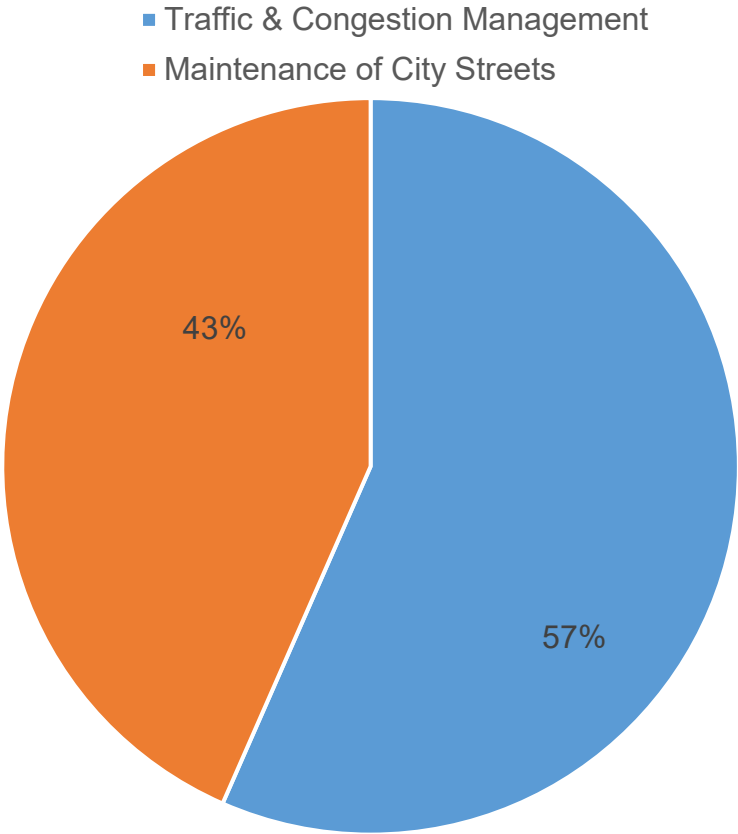
Priorities 1 & 2: \$15 Million Spent 2023-2026

Traffic & Congestion Management

- Ben King Road: \$1,232,929 (2016 SPLOST)
- Cherokee Street: \$3,568,073 (2011 SPLOST)
- Sardis Street Overpass: \$1,083,304 (2016 SPLOST)
- Sardis Street Extension: \$2,499,964 (2016 SPLOST)
- Sardis Street: \$62,888 (2022 SPLOST)
- Cathey/Rutledge Improvements: \$86,713 (2022 SPLOST)

Maintenance of City Streets

- Mack Dobbs Road (completed in 2024): \$2,064,697 (2016 SPLOST)
- Neighborhood Street Improvements: \$785,000 (2022 SPLOST)
- LRA 2023-2026: \$1,260,235
- LMIG 2023 - 2026: \$1,781,355
- CDBG 2023-2026: \$656,400



Priorities 1 & 2: \$2.6 Million (2026-2027)



GDOT LRA and SLGRG: \$850,000

- Street & Right-of-Way Paving, Cobb International Blvd

General Fund: \$500,000

- Street Paving Projects – Streets TBD

CDBG: \$300,000 *(approximate)*

- Woodland Acres Subdivision – Phase X

LMIG: \$950,000 *(approximate)*

- Cherokee St, Ben King

Priorities 1 & 2: \$5 Million (2026 & Beyond)



Federal Grants

- \$3,000,000 for neighborhood street resurfacing, sidewalk installation, and drainage improvements in Kencrest-Knightsbridge, Kennesaw Springs, and Blackjack Estates
 - Improvements anticipate in Fall 2026/Spring 2027.
- \$2,000,000 to start repaving Cobb International Boulevard
 - Design is underway with an anticipated let date in June 2027.

Priorities 3, 4, & 5: \$29.4 Million (FY 25 and FY 26 General Fund)



Nearly half (44%) of the \$66 million in the FY 25 and FY 26 combined budgets supported Priorities 3, 4, and 5.

Quality of Police Services

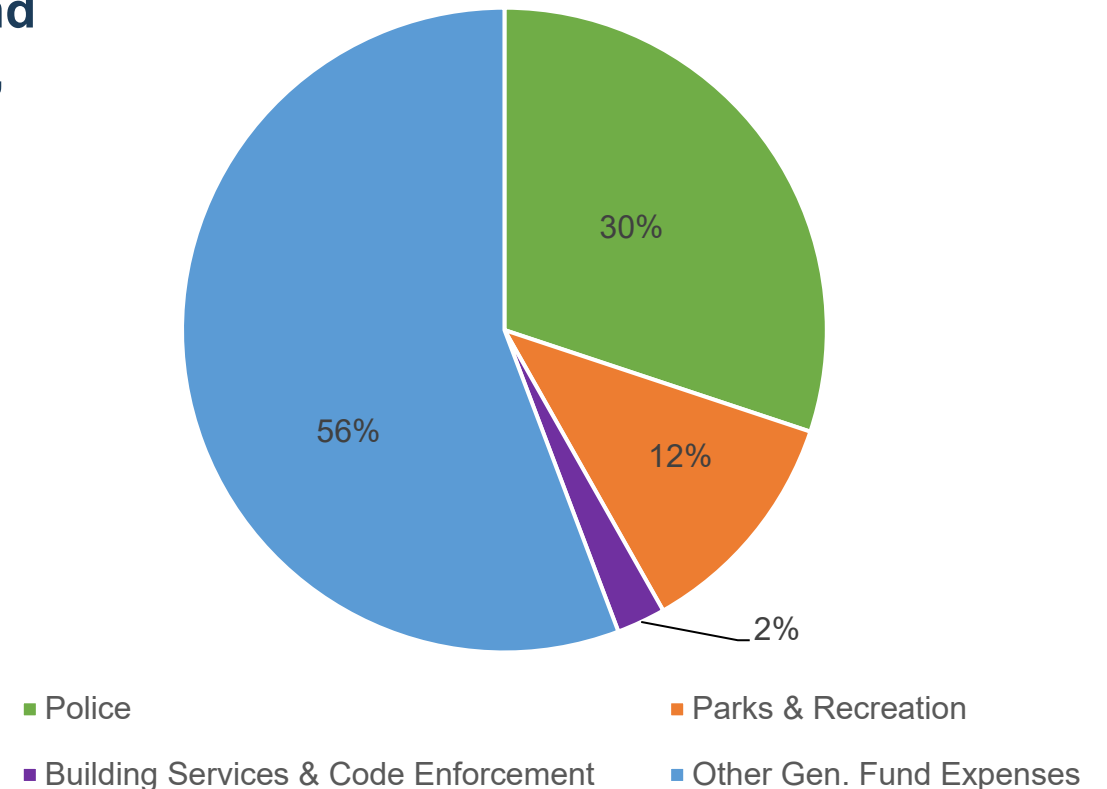
Total PD Budget: \$20,012,886

Enforcement of City Codes & Ordinances

Total Building Services Budget: \$1,627,111

Quality of Parks & Recreation Facilities/Programs

Total Parks & Rec Budget: \$7,777,564



Priorities 3, 4, & 5: \$16.5 Million (FY 27 General Fund)



47% of FY 27 Budget is funding Priorities 3, 4, & 5

Quality of Police Services

Total PD Budget: \$11,085,221

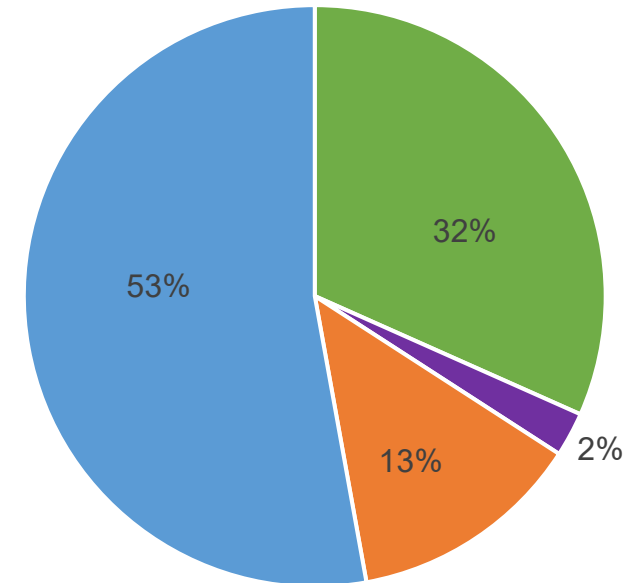
Enforcement of City Codes & Ordinances

Total Building Services Budget: \$863,656

Quality of Parks & Recreation Facilities/Programs

Total Parks & Rec Budget: \$4,559,145

FY 27 Funding



■ Police

■ Parks & Recreation

■ Building Services & Code Enforcement

■ Other Gen. Fund Expenses



Thank You!

Names and Addresses will be disclosed in the Permanent Minutes of the
City of Kennesaw

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS LEGIBLE AND CLEAR

City Council Special Budget Work Session

6/29/2026

Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1			
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Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM:
DATE: July 20, 2026
TITLE: **Minutes: July 6, 2026 Regular Meeting**
Approval of the July 6, 2026, City Council regular meeting minutes.

Summary:

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. 2026-07-06 City Council Meeting Draft Minutes

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)**

**Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/
July 6, 2026
6:30 PM**

Present

Mayor Derek Easterling
Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones
Councilmember Madelyn Orochena
Councilmember Tracey Viars
Councilmember Jonathon Bothers
Councilmember Anthony Gutierrez-Leon
Deputy City Clerk Nicholas Simpson
City Manager Jeff Drobney
City Attorney Sam Hensley, Jr.

1. Invocation

The Chamber observed the Invocation led by Carlene Fregeolle.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Chamber recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Andrew Bramlett.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

4. Announcements

5. Presentations

6. Public Comment

This section is for comment on any item on the agenda.

6:33 PM

FLOOR OPENED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

DANIEL TITUS [City Resident]: Mr. Titus has resided at 2772 Bent Creek Drive, NW, for approximately 34 years. He does not support (agenda item #12) the approval of a Retail Package Alcohol License for Liquor, Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Carni Spirits Corporation D/B/A Carni Spirits located at 2953 Cobb Parkway NW Suite 11/12, Kennesaw, GA 30152. He opposes having a liquor store in such proximity to his neighborhood. There is a church located less than 1/2 mile away from the location of

the shopping center where Carni Spirits is located. There is also an extended-stay hotel located near the entrance of his subdivision. Furthermore, Mr. Titus commented that his neighborhood has been experiencing burglaries, and he believes that a liquor store nearby will exacerbate the problem. According to Titus, the owner of the shopping center located at 2953 Cobb Parkway, NW, barred tenants from operating liquor stores, pawn shops, or automobile repair shops when the shopping center was built 20 years ago.

6:34 PM

FLOOR CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

11. Consent Agenda

A. Resolution: Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement with Cobb County Police

Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing a Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement between the City of Kennesaw and Cobb County Police for mutual aid and law enforcement assistance.

B. Surplus: Police Department Vehicles

Approval to sell or dispose of surplus City vehicles.

C. Final Plat Application: 1972, 1994 & 2004 Duncan Dr

Approval of the final plat application submitted by Gunnin Land Surveying; this plat will revise the lot lines for lot 29 and update the lot-area table to reflect the final as-built locations within the townhome subdivision known as Devin's Shire (Parcel #20013800470, 20013801940, 2001380190). Case #FP2026-03

D.

Minutes: June 15, 2026 Regular Meeting

Approval of the June 15, 2026, City Council regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to approve the Consent Agenda engross, motion seconded by Council member Jonathon Bothers.

Vote taken: approved, 5-0. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

12. General and Administrative

A. Alcohol License: Carni Spirits

Consideration for approval of a Retail Package Alcohol License for Liquor, Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Carni Spirits Corporation D/B/A Carni Spirits located at 2953 Cobb Parkway NW Suite 11/12, Kennesaw, GA 30152.
Applicant: Jeffrey Henley

Kennesaw Business License Manager Kayla Willis presented a Retail Package Alcohol License for Liquor, Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Carni Spirits Corporation D/B/A Carni Spirits located at 2953 Cobb Parkway NW Suite 11/12, Kennesaw, GA 30152. The applicant is Jeffrey Henley.

The applicant has completed the required alcohol workshop per Section 6-69. Signs have been posted, and this hearing has been properly advertised per Section 6-36. The current application and background check are on file.

A distance survey was completed by a certified surveyor and indicates that the business is within 300 feet of a private residence. Section 6-42 indicates that Mayor and Council may waive the distance requirement if the granting of such a license shall not have any adverse effect on the private residence.

The Finance Director recommends approval.

Motion by Council member Tracey Viars to approve the Retail Package Alcohol License for Liquor, Beer, Wine, and Sunday Sales for Carni Spirits Corporation D/B/A Carni Spirits located at 2953 Cobb Parkway NW Suite 11/12, Kennesaw, GA 30152 as presented. Motion seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones.

Mayor Easterling asked applicant Jeffrey Henley if he had anything he would like to say. Mr. Henley said that owning a business is a lifelong dream to own a business. He loves Kennesaw, his son attends Kennesaw State University, and he is a veteran.

Vote taken: approved, 5-0. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

13. Public Safety

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment

This section is for general comment.

6:37 PM FLOOR OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett delivered his once-monthly presentation on Kennesaw city history. The celebration of the United States' Bicentennial was a major event nationally, and local communities across the nation focused on local history projects as a result. Kennesaw's largest Bicentennial project was the restoration of the Big Shanty Spring. Located behind city hall, it had been somewhat forgotten by local community members. The Kennesaw Bicentennial Committee worked to clean the water and install a rock wall around it. It was dedicated in August 1976, and was renovated again in the 2010s. Other Bicentennial events included a bonfire at the depot, performances by local bands, and a "trade days" event featuring local vendors dressed in pioneer costumes. This final event may be the most recognizable legacy of the Bicentennial, as it marked the start of today's Big Shanty Festival. (See Exhibit A.)

SAMUEL RUSCH [City Resident]: Mr. Rusch shared emails with Council highlighting his email correspondence with city staff concerning seeclickfix.com requests in his community and an open records request. (See Exhibits 1-6.)

Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones addressed what he believed to be a claim Rusch made on Facebook insinuating that he did not feel graffiti removal was necessary in the Woodland Acres community. Jones commented that Rusch carries a tape recorder for use in recording conversations with public officials. He asked that Rusch bring the recording of the incident in question to the next meeting to corroborate his claim.

Rusch responded that he did not record his conversation with Mr. Jones and intimated that Council member Anthony Gutierrez-Leon heard their conversation and could therefore validate his claim. Rusch further commented that Jones told him that many of the cosmetic repairs in his neighborhood were not worthy of attention. Mayor Pro Tem Jones clarified his comments and stated for the record that there are drainage issues in the neighborhood that need not be prioritized for repairs. In response to Rusch's graffiti removal claim, Jones stated for the record that he would never disrespect law enforcement. He further commented that, as a Black man, he would not treat the removal of graffiti containing racial epithets as a trivial matter.

MATTHEW MAYO [City Resident]: Mr. Mayo asked the Council to provide answers to community questions about a trail camera located near the entrance to Woodland Acres Park. He also asked why Mayor and Council have not made Woodland Acres Park ADA-compliant by removing the chain blocking the entrance to the park and replacing it with a bollard. He further asked why a legal review is necessary before Mayor and Council meet with residents. He commented that he had never heard of anyone taking five months out of their year to make a budget.

6:46 PM FLOOR CLOSED FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

19. City Manager's Report

Kennesaw City Manager Jeff Drobney thanked staff for their efforts to make preparations for this year's Salute to America celebration. The event was executed without any issues. Drobney estimated that there were approximately 15 thousand people downtown for the event.

Council member Jonathon Bothers commented on the success of the Salute to America celebration. Bothers was amazed at how every time the city hosts an event, city personnel comes together to create a great event.

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

20. Mayor's Report

A. Mayor and Council (re)appointments to Boards and Commissions. This item is for (re)appointments made by the Mayor to any Board, Committee, Authority, or Commission requiring an appointment to fill any vacancies, resignations, and to create or dissolve boards and commissions, as deemed necessary.

21. Council Reports & Discussions

22. Executive Session

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A 50-14-3, the City Council could, at any time during the meeting, vote to close the public meeting and move to executive session to discuss matters relating to litigation, legal actions and/or communications from the City Attorney; and/or personnel matters; and/or real estate matters.

23. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m. The next work session will be held on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend.

Respectfully, Submitted

Nicholas Simpson, Deputy City Clerk

KENNESAW HISTORY

Bicentennial

Almost exactly fifty years ago, the United States celebrated the Bicentennial. It was a major event nationally, and local communities across the nation also worked to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Cities in Cobb County decided to focus on local history projects, and Kennesaw was no exception.

Kennesaw's largest Bicentennial project was the restoration of the Big Shanty Spring. Located behind city hall, it had been somewhat forgotten by local community members, though it was once an important water source. The Kennesaw Bicentennial Committee worked to clean the water and install a rock wall around it. It was dedicated in August 1976, and was renovated again in the 2010s.

Other Bicentennial events included a bonfire at the depot, performances by local bands, and a "trade days" event featuring local vendors dressed in pioneer costumes. This final event may be the most recognizable legacy of the Bicentennial, as it marked the start of today Big Shanty Festival.



Big Shanty Spring Dedication
Image from Fred Gaines

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the July 6, 2026,
City of Kennesaw Mayor & Council Meeting

Fwd: Butler Creek Park & Woodland Park | Landscape Service Request

1 message

Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>
To: print2644@gmail.com

Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 11:40 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Samuel Rusch** <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 9:12 AM
Subject: Fwd: Butler Creek Park & Woodland Park | Landscape Service Request
To: Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bill McNair** <bmcnair@kennesaw-ga.gov>
Date: Tue, Apr 7, 2026 at 4:29 PM
Subject: RE: Butler Creek Park & Woodland Park | Landscape Service Request
To: Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>
CC: Marty Hughes <mhughes@kennesaw-ga.gov>

Replacement park signs and QR code signage linked to SeeClickFix are in development.

Bill

From: Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 8:27 AM
To: Bill McNair <bmcnair@kennesaw-ga.gov>
Cc: Jeff Drobney <JDrobney@kennesaw-ga.gov>; Marty Hughes <mhughes@kennesaw-ga.gov>
Subject: Re: Butler Creek Park & Woodland Park | Landscape Service Request

Good Friday morning Marty,

I saw Jeff's OOO & wanted to ensure that your eyes got on this.

Thank you!

Fwd: Urgent Action Requested | Re: Damaged Storm Drain | Pine Dr NW & Lakewood Dr NW

1 message

Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>
To: print2644@gmail.com

Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 11:42 AM

#2

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jul 2, 2026 at 8:31 AM
Subject: Re: Urgent Action Requested | Re: Damaged Storm Drain | Pine Dr NW & Lakewood Dr NW
To: Ricky Stewart <rstewart@kennesaw-ga.gov>
Cc: Jeff Drobney <Jdrobney@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Jory Lyons <jory.lyons@mckenneys.com>, Derek Easterling <deasterling@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Madelyn Orochena <morochena@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Tracey Viars <tviars@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Jonathon Bothers <jbothers@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Antonio Jones <ajones@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Anthony Gutierrez <agutierrez@kennesaw-ga.gov>, <ed.setzler@senate.ga.gov>

Good morning Ricky,

Just following up on my request to meet with you for whenever it's convenient for your schedule.

Please advise & thank you.

On Wed, Jun 3, 2026 at 9:32 AM Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com> wrote:
Thank you Ricky, for refuting the erroneous claims made by Derek Easterling regarding the inappropriate use of this tool to report damage to the city of Kennesaw.

Have a blessed day, Sir & thank you again.

On Wed, Jun 3, 2026 at 9:30 AM Ricky Stewart <rstewart@kennesaw-ga.gov> wrote:
You can use See Click Fix for reporting concerns. We will evaluate to determine the urgency of the issue and prioritize the repair based on our scheduling. Critical issues will be responded to much quicker than cosmetic.

From: Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 8:22 AM
To: Ricky Stewart <rstewart@kennesaw-ga.gov>
Cc: Jeff Drobney <Jdrobney@kennesaw-ga.gov>; Jory Lyons <jory.lyons@mckenneys.com>; Derek Easterling <deasterling@kennesaw-ga.gov>; Madelyn Orochena <morochena@kennesaw-ga.gov>; Tracey Viars <tviars@kennesaw-ga.gov>; Jonathon Bothers <jbothers@kennesaw-ga.gov>; Antonio Jones <ajones@kennesaw-ga.gov>; Anthony Gutierrez <agutierrez@kennesaw-ga.gov>
Subject: Re: Urgent Action Requested | Re: Damaged Storm Drain | Pine Dr NW & Lakewood Dr NW

Good morning All,

Just following up - please advise & thank you.

On Mon, Jun 1, 2026 at 8:25 PM Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com> wrote:
Good evening Ricky,

Derek has advised both myself & my neighbor Jory (cc'd) that it is an inappropriate use of City time & resources for us to submit legitimate repair requests for our neighborhood, Woodland Acres, through SeeClickFix.com.

Derek stated tonight that we have 90+ active tickets stating needed repair in the neighborhood of Woodland Acres. While I agree that this is a large number, per the photos included in our requests, you & Derek will see that all of these SeeClickFix.com tickets are warranted & need urgent attention.

Moving forward, can you please advise on where we need to report our pothole, sidewalk & other concerns so as to not waste valuable city time & resources that our taxes fund?

Thank you & have a good night!

On Mon, Jun 1, 2026 at 10:46 AM Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com> wrote:
Good morning Ricky - just following up. Please advise & thank you!

On Fri, May 22, 2026 at 10:27 AM Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com> wrote:
Mr. Stewart,

Your crew is as dispatched because of my See Click Fix submission & informed me accordingly.

Please see attached & advise - thank you.

On Fri, May 22, 2026 at 9:25 AM Ricky Stewart <rstewart@kennesaw-ga.gov> wrote:
Mr. Rusch,

If there are any issues that you have identified in the neighborhood that you feel requires the City's attention, please feel free to submit them through our See Click Fix system. It's much easier to create work orders and allows you to see the progress that is being made on the issues.

From: Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 7:41 AM
To: Ricky Stewart <rstewart@kennesaw-ga.gov>
Cc: Jeff Drobney <JDrobney@kennesaw-ga.gov>
Subject: Re: Damaged Storm Drain | Pine Dr NW & Lakewood Dr NW

Good morning Ricky - just following up.

On Fri, May 15, 2026 at 9:26 AM Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com> wrote:
Good Friday morning, Ricky!

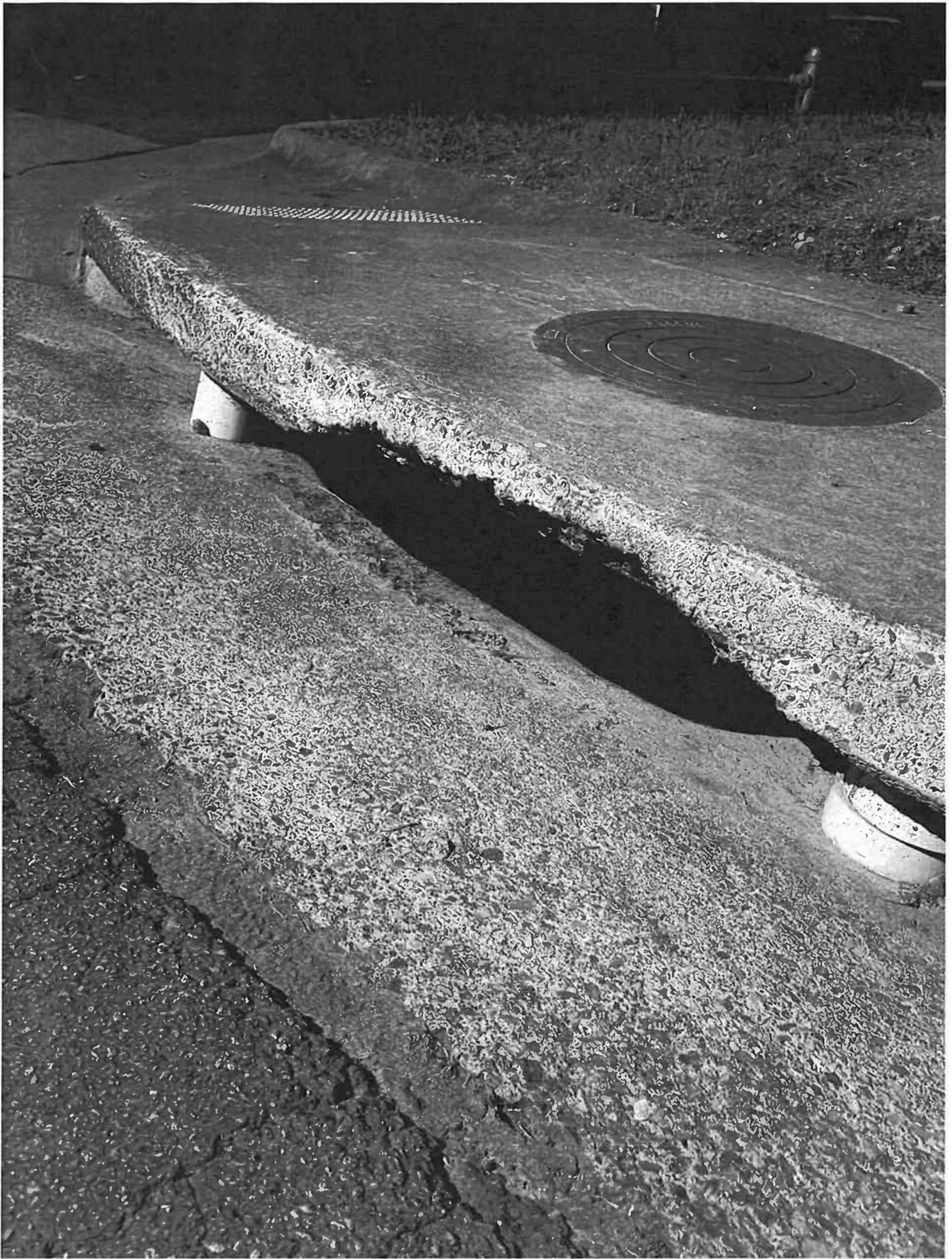
I just spoke with two of your crew members (who both do great work!) regarding the damaged storm drain at the intersection of Pine Dr NW & Lakewood Dr NW (photo attached).

They stated that, based on their arbitrary self made definition of "acceptability", that this does not need to be repaired nor does it pose a safety risk. They then shared with me that they have not been provided by PW with a tool/resource/means of formally & consistently calculating acceptable levels of damage - rather, they just make it up on the spot.

Is there a time next week when you & I could please set up a meeting to discuss some much needed repairs in my neighborhood of Woodland Acres as well as to understand how much any unit of concrete needs to be damaged in order to be repaired?

Again, both of the gentlemen who came out today & great individuals & do amazing work for my city.

Thank you!



Samuel Rusch
Chief Lawn Officer

Corner Cuts Landscaping, L.L.C.
☎ (770) - 530 - 2368

Fwd: Follow up re: Woodland Acres Neighborhood

1 message

Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>
To: print2644@gmail.com

Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 11:43 AM



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Samuel Rusch** <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 2, 2026 at 8:26 AM

Subject: Re: Follow up re: Woodland Acres Neighborhood

To: Madelyn Orochena <moroचना@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Anthony Gutierrez <agutierrez@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Antonio Jones <Ajones@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Jonathon Bothers <jbothers@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Tracey Viars <Tviars@kennesaw-ga.gov>, <ed.setzler@senate.ga.gov>

Cc: Derek Easterling <Deasterling@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Jeff Drobney <Jdrobney@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Jory.lyons@mckenneys.com <Jory.lyons@mckenneys.com>, Marty Hughes <MHughes@kennesaw-ga.gov>

Good morning Mayor & Council,

Just following up - please advise & thank you!

On Tue, Jun 30, 2026 at 7:33 AM Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com> wrote:
Good morning Mayor & Council,

Thank you for listening to me & my neighbors yesterday!

- We are all still very eager to help volunteer to assist you with the survey mentioned below. Is there a way that Council could please cast another vote to determine if this survey could become an official city sponsored survey? We strongly think that adding some notoriety to these surveys in the form of Kennesaw's City logo will only help provide peace of mind & reassurances to our neighbors that this survey is legitimate & city sponsored. Also, when & how did your continued canvassing efforts go? Additionally, why did Mr. Easterling refuse to admit the tentative results of this survey into public record?
- Council member Jones shared with us after the meeting last night that there will in fact be a discussion amongst City Council members on the July 13th agenda re: our neighborhood Woodland Acres - can someone please confirm that to be correct?
- Please advise on when the graffiti examples presented to Mayor & Council last night have been removed from our streets.

Thank you & ***have a great day!***

On Fri, Jun 19, 2026 at 1:59 PM Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com> wrote:
Good afternoon & Happy Friday, Everyone! 🤖

Mr. Lyons & I would love to help y'all canvas Woodland Acres & Pine Mountain Acres neighborhoods to help get the word out about this survey.

Understanding that 4/5 Council members need to approve Kennesaw's City logo, or any mention of the City, to be attached to this Survey, Mr. Lyons & I wanted to ask if a motion could be made amongst council to take another vote to (hopefully) approve such an addition so as to provide some reassurance to those completing the survey that this is an official City of Kennesaw survey.

Please advise, thank you & know that we're #HappyToHelp! 🙏



WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

Neighborhood Parks Survey

Your neighborhood's parks are for you — and we want to know what would make them better. This quick 5 question survey takes less than 2 minutes.

Scan the QR code below to share your thoughts.



Fwd: Action Required | Re: City of Kennesaw Open Records Request 2026-221

1 message

Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>
To: print2644@gmail.com

Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 11:42 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Samuel Rusch** <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Jul 2, 2026 at 8:27 AM

Subject: Re: Action Required | Re: City of Kennesaw Open Records Request 2026-221

To: <27107cc4-025c-484e-9dea-74e1acfb6f7b.KennesawGA@request.justfoia.com>, Nicholas Simpson <nsimpson@kennesaw-ga.gov>

Cc: Derek Easterling <Deasterling@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Jeff Drobney <Jdrobney@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Marty Hughes <MHughes@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Madelyn Orochena <morochena@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Anthony Gutierrez <agutierrez@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Antonio Jones <Ajones@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Jonathon Bothers <jbothers@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Tracey Viars <Tviars@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Jory Lyons <Jory.lyons@mckenneys.com>, <ed.setzler@senate.ga.gov>

Good morning Mayor & Council,

Just following up - please advise & thank you.

On Tue, Jun 30, 2026 at 7:35 AM Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning Mayor & Council,

Please see below & advise when available.

Thank you!

On Mon, Jun 22, 2026 at 6:14 PM Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com> wrote:

Good evening, Nicholas!

I hope that all is well!

I see that my ORR has been completed, but the response provided by the city only addresses one piece of information that I requested.

Is this something that you can please look into?

Thank you & have a great evening!

#5

KENNESAW, GA

RECORD REQUEST

Request #2026-221

I would like to request all available documentation related to the camera installed at 2568 Dobbs Dr (Woodland Park) to include the following: -Which person &/or entity is the owner of this camera? -When & why was this camera installed? -Who approved the instillation of this camera? -Why is there not a posted sign stating that the park & the home at 2569 Dobbs Dr is under surveillance? -How far away does an object in motion need to be from the camera for the camera to record audio, video &/or photos? -How long has this camera been installed & recording audio, video &/or photos? -How frequently does this camera record audio, video &/or photos? -When is the planned timeline for the removal of this camera? Thank you, City!



New Request



Track



Search



kennesawga.justfoia.com



On Mon, Jun 22, 2026 at 2:55 PM Nicholas Simpson (Kennesaw, GA) <KennesawGA@request.justfoia.com> wrote:

Samuel Rusch:

We have a response to your open records request regarding Woodland Park.

The City uses cameras, including trail cameras, in public parks, along trails, and on other City-owned properties. These cameras support public safety by assisting in investigations related to trespassing, vandalism, illegal dumping, and similar incidents. The City is committed to protecting individual privacy and complies with all applicable laws and City policies governing the use, storage, and retention of camera footage.

Thanks,

City Clerk's Office

City of Kennesaw, GA

2529 J.O. Stephenson Ave Kennesaw, GA 30144

770-429-4546 (o)

www.kennesaw-ga.gov

Samuel Rusch

Chief Lawn Officer

Corner Cuts Landscaping, L.L.C.

 (770) - 530 - 2368

 Connect with us on LinkedIn!



Samuel Rusch

Chief Lawn Officer

Corner Cuts Landscaping, L.L.C.

 (770) - 530 - 2368

 Connect with us on LinkedIn!

Fwd: Service requested from Kennesaw Public Servants

1 message

Samuel Rusch <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>
To: print2644@gmail.com

Mon, Jul 6, 2026 at 11:44 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Samuel Rusch** <samuelalanrusch@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jul 1, 2026 at 4:48 PM

Subject: Service requested from Kennesaw Public Servants

To: Derek Easterling <Deasterling@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Jeff Drobney <Jdrobney@kennesaw-ga.gov>

Cc: Madelyn Orochena <morochena@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Anthony Gutierrez <agutierrez@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Antonio Jones <Ajones@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Jonathon Bothers <jbothers@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Tracey Viars <Tviars@kennesaw-ga.gov>, Jory.lyons@mckenneys.com <Jory.lyons@mckenneys.com>, <ed.setzler@senate.ga.gov>

Good afternoon Everyone,

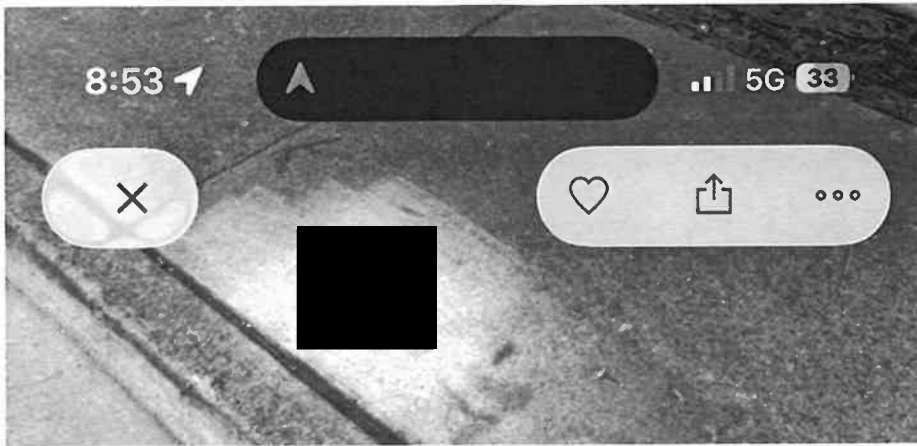
I understand that many of us have a short week (given the holiday), but I'd like to follow up about why the City of Kennesaw hasn't prioritized the removal of the graffiti examples attached to this email (of which, I provided each of you with photo copies on Monday) knowing that City staff acknowledged them on 5.29.26 & Councilmember Jones acknowledged them to me & my neighbors on 6.15.26 after the City Council meeting.

There is a child selling lemonade approximately 150 yards up the street from this racial filth.

Why is this being placed on the back burner & when will the graffiti be removed?

Please advise & have a Happy/Safe Independence Day! us 🌟





Graffiti

2515-2519 Ridgecrest Dr Nw Kennesaw, Georgia, 3...

● Acknowledged

Y'all already "removed" this, but we can still read every bit of it. Please remove properly thanks!

Show More

Comments (1)



Markques Givens

5/29/26 8:08 AM

Thank you for submitting a service request with the City of Kennesaw. We appreciate your help in identifying areas in need of attention. Your request is currently being reviewed by City staff.

Add a comment...

Post

Public status changes are not available for this request.

Names and Addresses will be disclosed in the Permanent Minutes of the
City of Kennesaw

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS LEGIBLE AND CLEAR

City Council Regular Meeting

7/6/2026

Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Andrew J. Brumlett	2490 Cornerfield Ct.	Local History
2	Samuel Resch	2459 Pine Pr NW	Woodland Acres & Park.
3	Matthew Mayo	2570 Woodland Dr	Woodland Acres
4	Daniel T. fur	2772 Bent Creek Dr NW	Alcohol Lic. mach. Disb.
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Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Bill Westenberger, Chief of Police
DATE: July 20, 2026
TITLE: **Crime Statistics: June 2026**
Consideration for the acceptance of the June 2026 crime statistics.

Summary:

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. M&C Report June 2026 PPT

June 2026 Crime Statistics



Group A Crimes	Jun 2026	Jun 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	3 (-1)	4	27 (+5)	22
ANIMAL CRUELTY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
ARSON	0 (+0)	0	1 (+0)	1
BRIBERY	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
BURGLARY	2 (+1)	1	15 (-1)	16
DRUG/ NARCOTICS OFFENSES	28 (-4)	32	229 (+63)	166
EMBEZZLEMENT	0 (+0)	0	1 (-1)	2
EXTORTION	2 (+2)	0	5 (-3)	8
FORGERY	1 (-3)	4	9 (-1)	10
FRAUD OFFENSES	19 (+11)	8	107 (+19)	88
HOMICIDE OFFENSES	0 (+0)	0	0 (+0)	0
INTIMIDATION	14 (+2)	12	51 (-19)	70
KIDNAPPING	1 (-1)	2	5 (-1)	6
LARCENY/ THEFT OFFENSES	15 (-5)	20	67 (-20)	87
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0 (-3)	3	11 (-6)	17
PORNOGRAPHY OBSCENE MATERIAL	2 (+2)	0	10 (+9)	1
ROBBERY	0 (+0)	0	2 (-1)	3
SEX OFFENSES	3 (-2)	5	16 (+1)	15
SIMPLE ASSAULT	15 (+1)	14	86 (+7)	79
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	1 (+1)	0	9 (+2)	7
VANDALISM	6 (-6)	12	28 (-5)	33
WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS	1 (-4)	5	24 (+0)	24
Totals	113	122	703	655

	Jun 2026	Jun 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
Dispatched Calls for Service	777 (-10)	787	4,545 (+61)	4,484
Self-Initiated Activity	1,352 (+46)	1,306	9,006 (+1,184)	7,822
Traffic Citations	559 (-17)	576	4,267 (+889)	3,378
Traffic Warnings*	510 (-247)	757	3,776 (-529)	4,305
Arrests**	61 (-25)	86	468 (-13)	481

	Jun 2026	Jun 2025	YTD 2026	YTD 2025
Auto Accidents	110 (+9)	101	618 (+11)	607
Accident w/ Injury	3 (-7)	10	46 (-13)	59
Hit and Run	7 (-7)	14	68 (-8)	76
Hit and Run w/ Injury	0 (+0)	0	2 (+0)	2
Person Hit by Auto w/ Injury	1 (+1)	0	5 (+2)	3

* Warnings do not include verbal warnings

**

Arrests do not include juvenile arrests



Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM:
DATE: July 20, 2026
TITLE: Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Summary:

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:
None



Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM:

DATE: July 20, 2026

TITLE: Mayor and Council (re)appointments to Boards and Commissions. This item is for (re)appointments made by the Mayor to any Board, Committee, Authority, or Commission requiring an appointment to fill any vacancies, resignations, and to create or dissolve boards and commissions, as deemed necessary.

Summary:

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

None