

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)
May 20, 2024
6:30 PM**

Present	Mayor Derek Easterling Mayor Pro Tem Antonio Jones Councilmember Madelyn Orochena Councilmember Tracey Viars Councilmember Pat Ferris Deputy City Clerk Christie Burgner City Manager Jeff Drobney City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr.
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1. Invocation

City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr. led the Invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Andrew Bramlett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

4. Announcements

- A. This public meeting is being conducted via the use of real-time telephonic technology allowing the public simultaneous access to the public meeting. You may also attend in person with limited seating available at both the Council Chambers and the Ben Robertson Community Center, if needed. Mayor and Council will be conducting their meeting via real-time telephonic technology using Zoom Meeting and Facebook Live. You can access the meeting via the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofKennesaw/>
- B. If you are not able to attend a meeting in-person and would like to provide public comment on a specific agenda item, you can email kennesawcouncil@kennesaw-ga.gov no later than 6:00 PM the night of the regular meeting. Your comments on a specific agenda item will be read aloud or grouped into categories for the record. **Facebook Live is not monitored for public comment.**

5. Presentations

6. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

6:31 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

SARA TORRES [Post 5 Candidate]: Ms. Torres appreciates the opportunity to run for office. In doing so she has gotten involved with the community on a deeper level and learned what people care about. She has actively contributed more to the greater good and looks forward to more contributions to build a better tomorrow together. Her website is VoteSaraTorres.com

6:33 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

A. FIRST PUBLIC HEARING: Updates to the Capital Improvement Element and Short Term Work Program (CIE/STWP) 2024-2028.

Consideration for approval of a Resolution adopting the updates to the Capital Improvement Element and Short Term Work Program (CIE/STWP) report covering the five-year period of 2024-2028. No action will take place until the regularly scheduled June 3, 2024, Mayor and Council meeting. Case# MISC2024-03.

Planning & Zoning Director Darryl Simmons provided information for the first of two public hearings regarding updates to the Capital Improvement Element and Short Term Work Program report. This report must be submitted to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). The draft was submitted, reviewed, and had minor amendments. Staff has reviewed the amendments and updated the report. There were no council comments. Mayor Easterling opened the floor for public comment at 6:35 p.m. There were no comments. Mayor Easterling closed the floor for public comments at 6:36 p.m.

11. Consent Agenda

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to approve the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilmember Viars. There was no discussion.

Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 4-0. Motion passed.

A. Minutes: April 29, 2024, Special Called Meeting

Approval of the April 29, 2024, City Council special called meeting minutes.

B. Minutes: April 29, 2024, Work Session

Approval of the April 29, 2024, City Council work session minutes.

C. Minutes: April 29, 2024, Executive Session

Approval of the April 29, 2024, City Council executive session minutes.

D. Minutes: May 6, 2024, City Council Meeting

Approval of the May 6, 2024, City Council regular meeting minutes.

- E. **Resolution: ESRI Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) software**
Approval of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with ESRI for a Small Government Enterprise Agreement.

[RESOLUTION 2024-23, 2024](#)

- F. **Resolution: Smith Gilbert Gardens Marquee Sign**
Approval of a Resolution to install a marquee sign at the Smith Gilbert Gardens and to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with Brooks-Berry-Haynie.

[RESOLUTION 2024-24, 2024](#)

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

- A. **Crime Statistics: April 2024**
Receipt of the April 2024 crime statistics.

Captain Ricky Shumpert presented the April 2024 crime statistics (See Exhibit A).
Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to receive the April 2024 crime statistics as presented.
Seconded by Councilmember Orochena. There was no discussion.
Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 4-0. Motion passed.

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

16. Recreation and Culture

- A. **Resolution: Swift Cantrell Fitness Station**
Consideration for approval of a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an agreement with GameTime, Inc. for the installation of an Outdoor Fitness Station at Swift Cantrell Park.

Parks & Recreation Director Bill McNair provided information on the proposed resolution for the Swift Cantrell Fitness Station. It will be located in the northwest corner of the park with twelve stations on a 24x54 rubber surface which will help with access to the stations. Councilmember Viars moved to approve the resolution. Councilmember Orochena seconded. Councilmember Ferris inquired as to how the location of the station was chosen and if the current lighting at night would be enough. Mr. McNair advised the location gives users the opportunity to stretch between sets, helps to move people away from the front of the park, and the lighting should be sufficient. Councilmember Ferris asked Mr. McNair to look at additional lighting for that area. Mayor Pro Tem Jones inquired about the maintenance and safety of the rubber flooring. Mr. McNair advised there is little maintenance and it is safe. Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 4-0. Motion passed.

[RESOLUTION NO. 2024-25, 2024](#)

B. Resolution: Recreation Center Furniture

Consideration for approval of a Resolution to purchase furniture for the Recreation Center and to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement with Office Images, Inc.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones advised he could hear this request as he checked his records and has not had any business dealings with Office Images, Inc.

Parks & Recreation Director Bill McNair provided information for the requested furniture. Items include vinyl seating and laminate tabletops in the State contract with Office Images.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones moved to approve the resolution as presented. Councilmember Viars seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 4-0. Motion passed.

[RESOLUTION 2024-26, 2024](#)

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

Mayor Easterling opened the floor for public comment at 6:44 p.m.

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett presented a local history story about Early Kennesaw Baptists (See Exhibit B).

Mayor Easterling closed the floor for public comment at 6:45 p.m.

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

City Manager Jeff Drobney advised that staff continues to finalize the amphitheater plans and are getting everything into place. Cobb Citizens Academy came to Kennesaw for a visit.

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

Councilmember Ferris congratulated all the upcoming high school graduates and wished them well.

Councilmember Orochena stated that she had not voted early and would be going tomorrow on Election Day. If you haven't voted, please do so.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones thanked Mr. Orochena for the reminder and he would also vote tomorrow.

Councilmember Viars stated she had been on vacation at Pensacola Beach where everyone walked everywhere. The cars stopped at all pedestrian crosswalks. She challenged the community to be friendlier to pedestrians, especially with school out for the summer.

Mayor Easterling reminded that Memorial Day is to commemorate those who died while in military service to the country and to acknowledge them. The tunnel on Main Street is closer to being opened.

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 regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend or view via Facebook Live.



April 2024 Crime Statistics

Summary

April 2024 Group A Offenses (99) decreased by 27% compared to April 2023 (135). A vast majority of the crimes reported in April 2024 were Drug Offenses (37). This trend is different in the data collected for crimes reported in April 2023. The majority of the crimes reported in April 2023 were Assault Offenses (35). Drug Offenses account for approximately 37% (37) of the crimes that have occurred within our jurisdiction in April 2024. Out of the 841 traffic stops in April 2024, (1,104) resulted in Citations and (528) Warnings. There was a total of (100) Adult Arrests that took place during the month, which is a 12% decrease from April 2023 (113).

There were 517 traffic accidents YTD, 46 of which were classified as Hit and Run. Of the 517 accidents 42 had injuries, and 5 involved pedestrians. YTD 2024 total accidents (517) are down compared to 539 YTD 2023.

Crimes	April 2024	April 2023	YTD (01/01/2024) – (04/30/2024)	YTD (01/01/2023) – (04/30/2023)
Assault Offenses	35	35	115	118
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0	7	2
Burglary	5	0	13	8
Homicide Offenses	0	0	1	0
Larceny	7	22	70	106
Sex Offenses	2	1	8	7
Robbery	0	2	0	4
Total	50	60	214	245

	April 2024	April 2023	YTD (01/01/2024) – (04/30/2024)	YTD (01/01/2023) – (04/30/2023)
Dispatched Calls for Service	584 (+52)	532	2,294 (-719)	3,013
Self-Initiated Activity	1,096 (-7)	1,103	4,348 (+99)	4,249
Traffic Citations	1,104 (-17)	1,121	4,527 (+151)	4,376
Traffic Warnings*	528 (+157)	371	2,194 (+1,022)	1,172
Arrests*	100 (-13)	113	370 (-18)	388

*Warnings do not include verbal warnings

*Arrest statistics does not include juveniles

Bill Westenberger
Chief of Police



Kennesaw Police Department
2539 J. O. Stephenson Ave., Kennesaw, GA, 30144
911 Call Center: (770) 422-2505
Criminal Investigations Division: (770) 429-4533



Bayleigh Brown
Crime/ Intelligence
Analyst

KENNESAW HISTORY

Early Kennesaw Baptists

In 1877, Rev. J. A. McMurray and Rev. W. H. Dean came to Big Shanty (present-day Kennesaw) to start a Baptist church. The congregation began with fourteen members. By the end of the year, that number had grown to fifty-one. According to the church directory from 1987, the congregation originally met in a building called the Good Templars Hall in Downtown Kennesaw.

In June of the next year, a new building was dedicated near where the Southern Museum is today. The June 20, 1878, *Christian Index and South-Western Baptist* said it was "36 by 50 feet... well ventilated, nicely carpeted and finished generally." At the time, there was still \$150 dollars left to pay for the building's construction, but after a speech from Col. J. R. Brown, members of the community were inspired to donate the rest of the funds. The church would use this building until 1902.

For the Index and Baptist.]

DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH AT KENNESAW.

DEAR INDEX—It was my pleasure on yesterday, the 19th instant, to attend the dedication of the new Baptist church at Kennesaw, Georgia. A very fine sermon was preached at 11 o'clock, by Rev. I. R. Branham, of Eatonton, Georgia, from the text, "Whatsoever is commanded by the God of Heaven let it be diligently done for the house of the God of Heaven." Ezra vii: 23. Notwithstanding the crowded house the people were very attentive, indeed they could not have been otherwise, during the delivery of such a sermon.

After the sermon it was announced that there was a small balance of \$150 due on the church, which, after a few remarks by Col. J. R. Brown, was soon raised—Col. Brown heading the list with one-fifth of the amount. And then what do you think happened? Nothing short of a sure enough old

fashioned "basket dinner"—and such baskets! We saw one that was so large and well filled, that it actually required the services of two stout freed-men to carry it.

June 20, 1878, *Christian Index and South-Western Baptist*

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the May 20, 2024,
City of Kennesaw Mayor & Council Meeting

Exhibit C

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

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR NAME IS LEGIBLE AND CLEAR

Mayor & Council Regular Meeting

5/20/2024

Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Andrew D Bramlett	2990 Summerfield Ct., Kennesaw	Local history
2	Sam Jones	2008 Chesterfield Drive	City Council
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