

**MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Council Chambers
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)
June 17, 2024
6:30 PM**

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

City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr. gave the Invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Sergeant Marlin Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:30 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

- A. **Promotion Announcement: Sergeant Marlin Adams**

Introduction of newly promoted Sergeant Marlin Adams.

Chief Bill Westenberger introduced the City of Kennesaw's newest Sergeant, Marlin Adams. Sergeant Adams shared that he was very excited about the new opportunity and the challenges that await him as a supervisor. He said he would do his best to lead and guide his team in the best direction. Congratulations!

6. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

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

No comments.

6:34 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

A. Public Hearing: Ordinance to Adopt the Restated Defined Benefit Retirement Plan

Consideration for approval of an Ordinance to adopt the Restated Adoption Agreement and General Addendum with Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) for the City's defined benefit retirement plan. This is needed in order to comply with IRS guidelines.

Human Resources Director Brian Acker presented an ordinance to adopt the Restated Adoption Agreement and General Addendum with Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) for the City's defined benefit retirement plan. Mr. Acker stated the city revisits this item every few years regarding compliance issues with our pension plan documents. Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) is the record keeper for the city's defined benefit pension plan. GMEBS periodically reviews and updates the plan to make sure it is in compliance with Internal Revenue Service (IRS) provisions. GMEBS recently submitted the plan to the IRS and was returned a favorable determination letter, which gives the city assurance it maintains a qualified pension benefit program. The terms of the plan remain the same as adopted in 2021.

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve [ORDINANCE NO. 2024-07, 2024](#) to adopt the Restated Adoption Agreement and General Addendum with Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS) for the City's defined benefit retirement plan as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Ferris.

6:35 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

6:36 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 5-0. Motion passed.

11. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: May 28, 2024 Work Session

Approval of the May 28, 2024, City Council work session minutes.

B. Minutes: June 3, 2024 Regular Meeting

Approval of the June 3, 2024, City Council regular meeting minutes.

C. Minutes: June 3, 2024 Executive Session

Approval of the June 3, 2024, City Council executive session minutes.

D. Resolution: City Hall Exterior Structural Repairs

Consideration for approval of a Resolution to repair the front entrance to the Kennesaw Police Department side of City Hall.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-30, 2024

E. Amendment: Road Closure for Salute to America

Consideration for approval to amend the street closing time of Shirley Drive during the July 3, 2024 Salute to America event.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Seconded by Councilmember Orochena.

Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 5-0. Motion passed.

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

A. Crime Statistics: May 2024

Consideration to receive the May 2024 crime statistics.

Chief Bill Westenberger presented the May 2024 crime statistics [See **Exhibit A**].

Motion by Councilmember Viars to receive the May 2024 crime statistics as presented. Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 5-0. Motion passed.

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

6:37 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett spoke about Ben Carrie, the owner of the Carrie House that is now used as an event green room for the new Piedmont Bank Amphitheater [See **Exhibit B**].

6:38 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Dr. Drobney did not have any updates for tonight's meeting.

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 Orochena is looking forward to attending the Georgia Municipal Association's annual convention this week as well as the graduation of the Citizens Police Academy.

Councilmember Gutierrez shared his appreciation for everyone who was involved with the amphitheater. The opening concert was a phenomenal event.

Councilmember Ferris thanked Dr. Drobney for all the work he did to make Depot Park and the amphitheater happen. The event this past Friday went off flawlessly, and it was a testament to the amount of time taken to make it a success.

Mayor Pro Tem Jones highlighted the Cobb Municipal Association meeting last week. It was nice to see the Mayor highlight the things happening in the city. He thanked Chief Westenberger for the Juneteenth event over the weekend.

Councilmember Viars exclaimed Friday night went off flawlessly, as well as the Juneteenth event on Saturday. She said the new amphitheater has the chance to change this community.

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 6:45 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, July 1, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The June 24, 2024, City Council work session will be canceled due to attendance at the Georgia Municipal Association annual conference. The public is encouraged to attend or view via Facebook Live.

Lea Alvarez, City Clerk



May 2024 Crime Statistics

Summary

May 2024 Group A Offenses (105) decreased by 19% compared to May 2023 (129). A vast majority of the crimes reported in May 2024 were Assault Offenses (40). This trend is also present in the data collected for crimes reported in May 2023. Assault Offenses account for approximately 38% (40) of the crimes that have occurred within our jurisdiction in May 2024. Out of the 858 traffic stops in May 2024, (993) resulted in Citations and (477) Warnings. There was a total of 125 Adult Arrests that took place during the month, which is a 19% increase from May 2023 (105).

There were 656 traffic accidents YTD, 58 of which were classified as Hit and Run. Of the 656 accidents 50 had injuries, and 7 involved pedestrians. YTD 2024 total accidents (656) are down compared to 688 YTD 2023.

Crimes	May 2024	May 2023	YTD (01/01/2024) – (05/31/2024)	YTD (01/01/2023) – (05/31/2023)
Assault Offenses	40	42	151	160
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	2	7	4
Burglary	0	3	14	11
Homicide Offenses	0	0	1	0
Larceny	10	12	81	118
Sex Offenses	1	2	9	10
Robbery	1	1	1	5
Total	52	62	264	308

	May 2024	May 2023	YTD (01/01/2024) – (05/31/2024)	YTD (01/01/2023) – (05/31/2023)
Dispatched Calls for Service	813 (+312)	501	3,107 (-407)	3,514
Self-Initiated Activity	1,121 (+35)	1,086	5,469 (+34)	5,435
Traffic Citations	993 (-149)	1,142	5,532 (+14)	5,518
Traffic Warnings*	477 (+135)	342	2,694 (+1,180)	1,514
Arrests*	125 (+20)	105	496 (+3)	493

*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

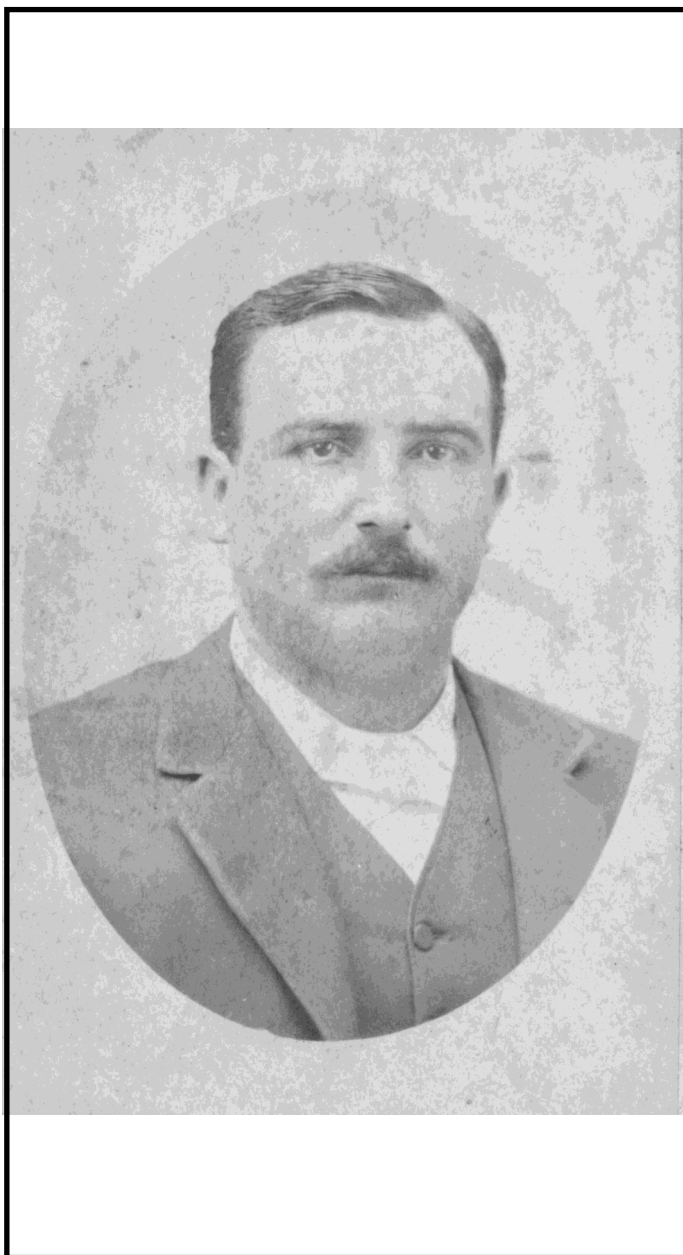
KENNESAW HISTORY

Ben Carrie

With the opening of the new Piedmont Bank Amphitheatre, I wanted to spotlight Ben Carrie, who built the yellow house now used as the event green room.

Carrie was born on April 15, 1857. He served as mayor of Kennesaw for two terms, serving from 1896 to 1897. By 1901, Carrie held the office of Justice of the Peace and officiated the weddings of many Kennesaw couples. He later served as city clerk and treasurer for the City of Kennesaw. In 1908, Carrie became a founder of the Kennesaw State Bank, which served the community for over 50 years. At one time, Carrie also served as county registrar.

During his lifetime, Carrie had many interests. He went to auto races in Atlanta, and he was on a local amateur checkers team. Benjamin Carrie passed away on September 8, 1936. He was buried in his family's plot in the Kennesaw City Cemetery.



Benjamin Carrie

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the June 17, 2024,
City of Kennesaw Mayor & Council Meeting

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

6/17/2024

Public Comment Sign-in

	Name	Address	Topic
1	Andrew J. Brantlett	2990 Summerfield Ct, Kennesaw	Local history
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