

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

Livestream: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofKennesaw/>
**July 15, 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, Jr. led the Invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

City resident Andrew Bramlett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Derek Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

4. Announcements

- A. 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

No comments.

6:32 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

11. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes: July 1, 2024 Regular Meeting

Approval of the July 1, 2024, City Council regular meeting minutes.

B. Grant Application: Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance for Body-Worn Cameras

Consideration for authorization to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance to replace body-worn cameras.

C. Resolution: 2024 Pipe Rehabilitation Project

Consideration for approval of a Resolution to award the bid and contract for the 2024 Pipe Rehabilitation Project

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-32, 2024

D. Resolution: City Hall Roof Top Unit (RTU) Replacement

Consideration for approval of a resolution to award the bid and contract for the City Hall RTU Replacement

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-33, 2024

Motion by Councilmember Viars to approve the Consent Agenda engross. Seconded by Councilmember Gutierrez.

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

12. General and Administrative

13. Public Safety

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment/Business from the Floor

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

ANDREW BRAMLETT [City Resident]: Mr. Bramlett spoke about the two medals of honor awarded to the families of Phillip Shadrach and George Wilson on July 3, 2024. Shadrach and Wilson were a part of a group of Union soldiers that stole the locomotive *General* in an attempt to disrupt Confederate transportation lines. The Great Locomotive Chase is one of the most important events in our town's history [See **Exhibit A**].

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

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

City Manager Jeff Drobney did not have any reports, discussions, or updates for this 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.

Mayor Easterling switched a couple of Council liaison appointments. Councilmember Gutierrez will now serve as a Council liaison to the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission and Councilmember Orochena will serve as a Council liaison to the Kennesaw Arts and Culture Commission.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to appoint Councilmember Gutierrez as Council liaison to the Kennesaw Sister Cities Commission and Councilmember Orochena as Council liaison to the Kennesaw Arts and Culture Commission. Seconded by Councilmember Orochena.

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

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Jones to appoint Dr. Jeff Drobney and Mayor Derek Easterling as representatives for the City of Kennesaw for House Bill 489 mediation on Wednesday, July 17th and Thursday, July 18th. Seconded by Councilmember Viars. Vote taken, motion unanimously approved 5-0. Motion passed.

Mayor Easterling explained to the public that the City of Kennesaw, along with the other Cobb County cities, are going into mediation with the Council regarding Service Delivery Strategy.

21. Council Reports & Discussions

Mayor Pro Tem Jones asked the public to pray for our country in the aftermath of the shooting that occurred at Donald Trump's rally over the weekend.

Councilmember Ferris shared that the event has been weighing heavy on his mind as

well. He hopes everyone learns to work together. He expects more out of our country and our representatives.

Councilmember Orochena reiterated the President's words over the weekend that politics should be an arena for peaceful debate. Through our differences, we should not lose sight of each other's humanity.

Councilmember Gutierrez stated that at the end of the day, we are all Americans. He shared that we need to treat each other with respect and use this event as an example to make sure it never happens again.

Councilmember Viars encouraged everyone to watch what they read on social media. There is a lot of misinformation spread around. She said that if anyone has a question about something going on in the city that they are not sure about, please feel free to give her a call.

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.

Motion by Councilmember Gutierrez to enter into Executive Session as allowed by O.C.G.A § 50-14-3 for the purpose of discussing Legal. Motion seconded by Councilmember Viars.

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

6:40 p.m. Recess to Executive Session

The Mayor, City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, and Assistant City Attorney attended the Executive Session.

7:01 p.m. Reconvene to Open Session

Councilmember Gutierrez read the Council back into Open Session and directed the Mayor and City Council to execute an affidavit in compliance with O.C.G.A § 50-14-4. Motion seconded by Councilmember Ferris.

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

23. Adjourn

Mayor Easterling adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, July 29, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The public is encouraged to attend or view via Facebook Live.

Lea Alvarez, City Clerk

KENNESAW HISTORY

Medal of Honor

Shadrach and Wilson

Image from the US
Department of Defense



The Great Locomotive Chase is one of the most important events in our town's history. On April 12, 1862, a group of Union soldiers led by civilian James J. Andrews stole the locomotive *General* in an attempt to disrupt Confederate transportation lines. The train was stolen near where the Kennesaw Depot sits today. Pursued for eighty miles, these "Andrews' Raiders" were not able to cause much damage to the railroad. Just north of Ringgold, they had to flee into the North Georgia Mountains where they were captured. Eight men, including Andrews, were later hung in Atlanta as spies in June 1862. Six were eventually released in a prisoner exchange, and become the first recipients of the Medal of Honor on March 25, 1863. The remaining men escaped from prison and returned north.

In the years since, all but two of the soldiers received the Medal of Honor for their bravery. The two civilians who participated are ineligible. The two remaining soldiers, Phillip Shadrach and George Wilson, were among the men hung as spies. Their medals were authorized in 2008, but were not awarded to their families until July 3, 2024 less than two weeks ago. Few communities have a stronger connection to the Medal of Honor than Kennesaw.

Presented by Andrew J. Bramlett at the July 15, 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

7/15/2024

Public Comment Sign-in

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