

**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 29, 2024
6:00 PM**

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

1. Invocation

City Attorney Randall Bentley, Sr. led the Invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Visting Boy Scouts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Mayor Easterling called the meeting to order at 6:00 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

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Committee and Board Reports

10. Public Hearing(s)

A. **First Public Hearing: Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate**

Consideration for approval of a Resolution to adopt the proposed Maintenance and Operation Millage Rate

Property Tax Administrator Latisha Gunn presented a resolution to adopt the proposed Maintenance and Operation (M&O) millage rate. The City of Kennesaw is proposing a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O, which is the same as last year. The public hearing dates, 2024 tax digest, and 5-year history of levy were properly advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 20, 2024, and July 27, 2024, in accordance with O.C.G.A § 48-5-32. The second and final hearings will take place on August 5, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively.

6:01 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

6:02 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

B. **First Public Hearing: Bond Millage Rate**

Consideration for approval of a Resolution to adopt the proposed Bond Millage Rate

Ms. Gunn presented a resolution to adopt the proposed Bond millage rate. The City of Kennesaw is proposing a 1.5 millage rate for the Bond, which is the same as last year. The Bond millage rate is levied to fund the debt service of the \$15,000,000 Recreation and Traffic Safety Bonds that were approved by the voters on September 21, 2004. The public hearing dates, 2024 tax digest, and 5-year history of levy were properly advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 20, 2024, and July 27, 2024, in accordance with O.C.G.A § 48-5-32. The second and final hearings will take place on August 5, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively.

6:03 p.m. Floor Open for Public Comments

No comments.

6:04 p.m. Floor Closed for Public Comments

Councilmember Ferris requested the Council to consider reducing the millage rate. He mentioned both the M&O budget and the Bond budget seem to be well funded and was curious about moving another 0.25 for either one to give our residents some relief.

Councilmember Viars asked Finance Director Gina Auld and Assistant Finance Director Jennifer Gordy what the reduction would be for the taxpayers. Ms. Gordy responded that a 0.25 M&O rollback would be a \$35.00 reduction for the taxpayer and a \$500,000 reduction in revenue for the City. Ms. Auld shared what they had calculated for the Bond was a full rollback of 0.104, which would be a \$15.00 reduction for the taxpayer,

and the City would lose \$230,000 in revenue. If the City was to do a 0.25 rollback, it would be about a \$30.00 savings for the taxpayer and about \$460,000 in lost revenue for the City.

Councilmember Ferris asked the Council to consider a 0.25 rollback on the Maintenance and Operation millage rate.

Councilmember Jones said he is not opposed to reducing the millage rate since the City is doing so well financially.

Councilmember Viars asked the Council to think about some of the things they are considering, such as employee recruitment and retention, fixing potholes, more fireworks, etc. The rollback would have a significant impact on the City side.

Councilmember Orochena agreed with Councilmember Viars.

Mayor Easterling stated that we have to run the City of Kennesaw like a business. Councilmember Ferris responded that he agreed, but the lost revenue would come out of the reserves, so it would not affect the City Manager's budget. We will still be able to accomplish everything laid out in the budget.

11. Consent Agenda

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

19. City Manager's Report

20. Mayor's Report

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 6:11 p.m.

Lea Alvarez, City Clerk